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Otaku

ANIME MAGAZINE

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August 2013 P 95

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Issue #**4**

Oh·No!
ホー! Manga

COSPLAY CAMP 2

REVIEWS

Pichi Pichi Pitch

To aru majutsu no index

Genei wo kakeru taiyou



TO ARU KAGAKU NO RAILGUN S

MANGA

Mahou no Iroha!

Mahou Shoujo of the End

Yamada and the Seven witches

GAME

Touhou 13.5

Magical battle girl Arena

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table of contents

Editorial.....	2
Inbox	4
News	6
Just Japan.....	8
Requests	12

Con in Focus:	
Oh-No! Manga Cosplay Camp 2	16
Gamer's Arena	22
Magical Battle Arena	
Touhou 13.5	

Cover Feature:	
Date a Live	28
Food	32

Face Draw Winners	36
-------------------------	----

Animix:	
New Millenium Magical Girls	38
Reviews	43
Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch	
Toaru Majutsu no Index	
Genie-wo Kakeru Taiyou	

Special Feature:	
To Aru Kagaku no Railgun S	46



45

Kazoku Spotlight	48
Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha	
Cosplay	51

Manga	54
Yamada and the Seven Witches	
Mahou Shoujo of the Dead	
Mahou no Iroha!	
Fashion	58

Kazoku Spotlight	61
Puella Magi Madoka Magica	

Live Action	64
Himitsu no Akko-chan	
Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet	
Cutie Honey: The Live	

O-kun's 10	68
Sneak peek	70
O-kun Tales.....	71
Contributors Page.....	72



51



61

Konnichiwa Otafans!

Umbrellas up! Rainy season has already started. Most of us prefer to stay indoors than to go out to have fun and some find it boring. We at Otaku Asia will never let you get bored because this month's issue will make your life colorful, full of sparkles and magic.

We present **Mahou Shoujo** (Magical Girls) as the theme of August issue! We bring you **Date a Live** for our cover feature; some anime series filled with magic while some with romance and comedy. We also have an introduction of magical girls for this month's Just Japan. Check out our new segment, the Gossip section which is all about the recent rumors in anime, game, manga and Japan. For this issue, it is all about the Madoka movie coming out in October. We also have two, not one, but two segments for this month's Kazoku Spotlight: Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha and Puella Magi Madoka Magica.

We are also revealing to you the winners of the Draw The Face contest. We thank all who joined and participated in this contest. Also, keep sending your fanmalls, requests and fanarts to us and we'll make sure that it will be posted in the Inbox section on the upcoming issues~

So now, start opening the page on the right side to start your magical journey!

-Dianne



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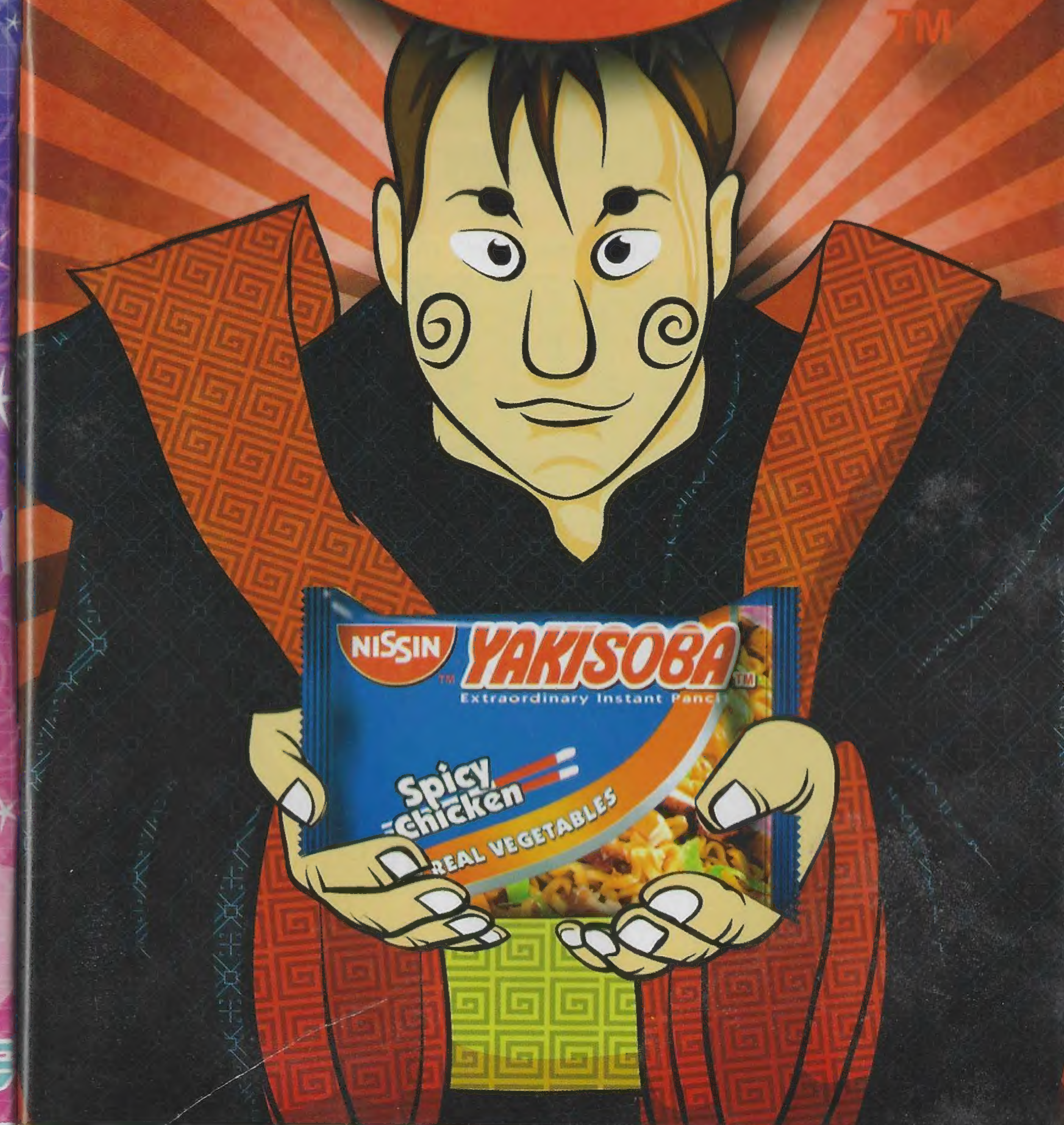
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EDITORIAL

NISSIN



DRAW THE FACE



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by Irish Gaviño



by Hannah Feliciano



by Yvonne Mae Capatayan



by Jhon William Capacite



by Ma. Agenica de Castro

CONTESTANTS



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by Yvonne Mae Capatayan



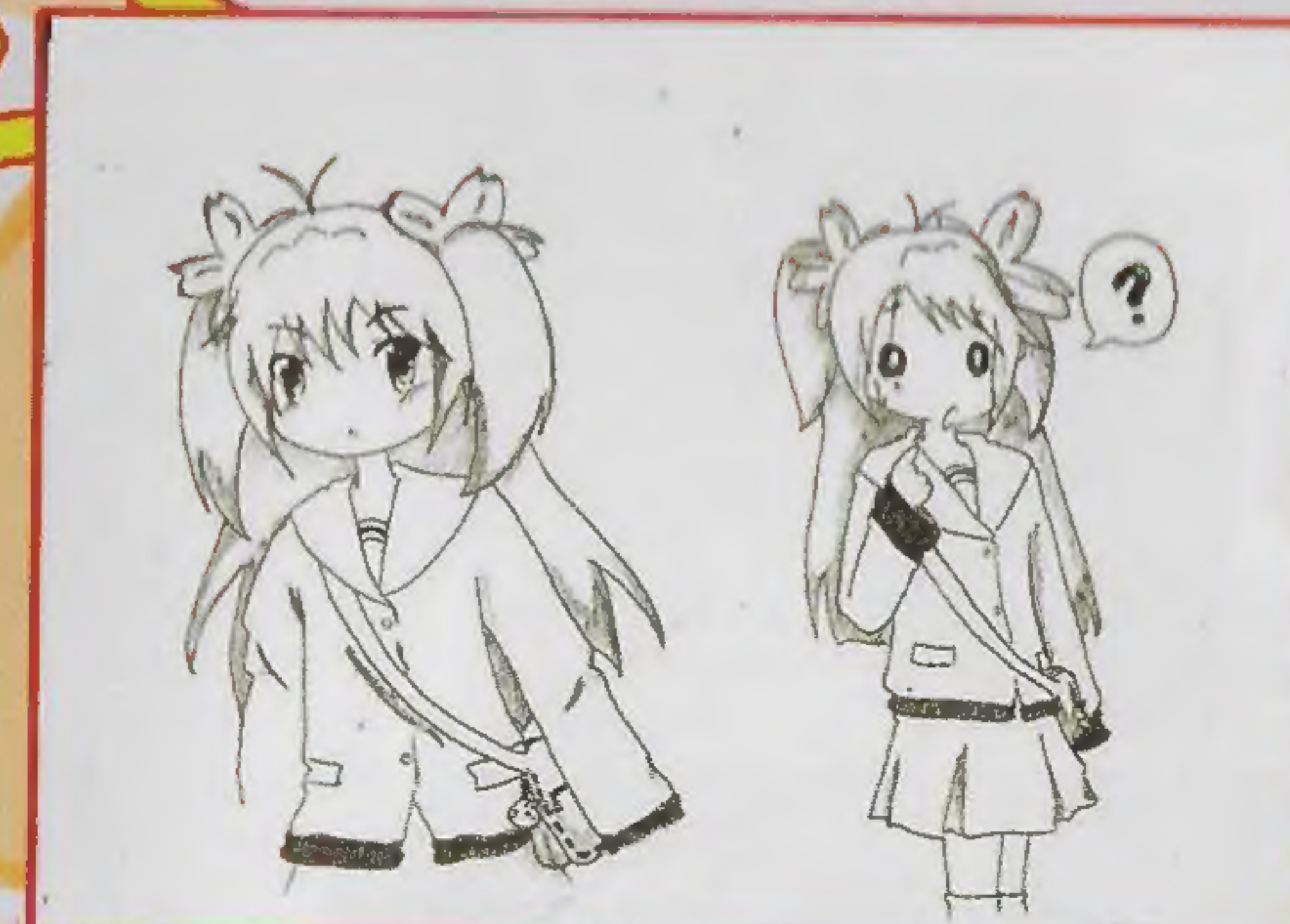
by Ma. Agenica de Castro



by Patricia Mae Elentorio



by Christine Paola Pring



by Joan Ericka Ubalde



by Marie Shiela Zoleta

New anime, drama and manga coming towards you!

by Kent

In an issue of Shounen Magazine, it was announced that the manga "Yamada-kun to 7-nin no Majo" or "Yamada and the Seven Witches" will be adapted to a live action TV drama series. It will air on Saturdays on Fuji TV network from August 10th onwards. Each episode is said to be 45 minutes long.

Urara Shiraishi, the model student with excellent grades (and a witch), will be played by Mariya Nishiuchi. While Ryu Yamada, the trouble student, will be Yusuke Yamamoto.

To know more about the manga, flip to our Manga section, page 54!



Ultra Jump magazine announced that Trigger's **Little Witch Academia** anime will be getting a short manga starting this August 19. It will be illustrated by Terio Teri (from Hlocclinie).

As you read, Trigger is also working hard on the sequel of the same anime after fans pledged and funded the project in Kickstarter.com. Same team, same anime, new season with Yoh Yoshinari as director (from Panty & Stocking with Garterbelt and Neon Genesis Evangelion). We look forward to a 35-minute episode of witchy magic!

They are working to make the anime by winter 2013.

Little witch Academia is about Akko Kagari who looks up to Shiny Chariot, a witch. Hoping to be just like her idol, she gets accepted to the prestigious witch academy, Luna Nova. Akko did not expect that classes are the same in any other school: boring. She struggles to go through classes in high spirits. Coming from a non-witch family, she has a hard time keeping up with the rest of the class and even falls off her broom. What will happen to her inside the Academy? Who is Shiny Chariot?

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Mahou Shoujo:

Beautiful beginnings to its powerful present

One of the popular themes in anime and manga is the Mahou Shoujo [lit. Magical Girl] more known in Japan as **Majokko** (witch-girl). This is a sub-genre of fantasy anime and manga which features young girls who use magic and fight the forces of evil. This genre also features these girls having talking familiars and transformation sequences to their magical forms.



The genre first appeared as a prototype in the **Princess Knight** by Ozamu Tezuka, known as the God father of Anime, released in 1953, and **Secret Akko-chan** by Fujio Akatsuka, released in 1962, which introduced the convention that the magical girl gets her powers from a "special object" that was used in later magical girl series.



The Magical Girl Warrior subgenre, despite being the most well-known style of Magical Girl show in the west, didn't hit until **Sailor Moon** in 1992. This was a combination of the earlier style shows of the Super Sentai series. Sailor Moon was a huge hit, and naturally, other shows were made in the same style. Some were even more divergent from the old-style shows.

Last July, Sailor Moon celebrated its 20th anniversary and fans of the show were greeted with an announcement that a new anime adaptation will be released in 2013 and will be broadcasted simultaneously worldwide!



Generally, the genre is traced to the 1960s and is influenced by American television, such as **Bewitched**, whose Japanese dubbed version of the series became popular among Japanese girls during the 1960s. It was originally a sub-type of shoujo manga, with such early titles as **Sally**, the Witch, although occasionally it was more geared towards men, such as the fanservice-heavy **Cutie Honey**. The two series provided some of the tropes that would become archetypical in the subgenre: Sally could not reveal her powers to anyone, and had to cry out a short incantation and wave a magical item in order to cast her spells; in **Cutie Honey**, Honey could transform into a special outfit for her primary battles.

Originally, all Magical Girl shows were produced by TOEI Animation, so "Magical Girl" wasn't so much a genre as a series franchise. This lasted until Ashi Production's **Magical Princess Minky Momo** was released in 1982, followed by Studio Pierrot's **Creamy Mami** in 1983 (the first Magic Idol Singer show). A one-shot OVA produced in 1987 featured a **Bat Family Crossover** between Studio Pierrot's four 80s Magical Girl shows (**Creamy Mami**; **Persia**, the Magic Fairy; **Magical Star Magical Emi** and **Magical Idol Pastel Yumi**) - this was the first instance

ELEMENTS



Mahou Shoujo series features protagonists who use magic either for fighting evil or for friendship, love, and goals.

Magical girls obtain their powers from an enchanted object, such as a pendant, wand, or compact, which they use to transform and for their magical incantation.

Magical girls also receive the aid of a talking-animal sidekick who recruits them to fight evil in the process by giving the character their transformation device. Some magical girls work in teams, with such teams learning to combine their powers to perform super charged attacks.

Can you name the animal sidekicks?



MAHOU SHOUJO TODAY

This Era of Mahou Shoujo now has two branches that capture its specific audiences.

Shoujo focuses more on the emotional side of the conflict with the protagonist's love interest relationship and all the drama that surrounds the protagonist's position as mahou shoujo while the battles are highly underrated and generally less "detailed". The girls, design is also a lot more "simple" maybe trying to appeal to the "everyone is a normal girl, so you can relate to them".

Shounen/seinen focuses more on the the grand scheme of things and the girls by themselves, with their characterization and graphical details giving to each girl an appearance of the ideal girl from the male point of view. The battles are very detailed, lengthy and shounen battle manga-like. Another interesting point is the total absence of any love interest in the girls. An example of this is **Mahou Shoujo Lyrical Nanoha** series and **Pretty Cure**, more known as **Pre-Cure** franchise.

Mahou Shoujo will always be a welcome genre for all otaku of any age. From **Sailor Moon** to **Fate Kaleid Liner Prisma Illya**, we love magical girls.

Otaku Asia Anime Magazine

The Magical Girl Issue!!

Because there are a lot of Mahou Shoujo animes coming out, we would like to cover them an one go! Here we go!!

The World God Only Knows: Goddesses Saga



< The girls are back and with them, goddesses! What new challenge is in store for our 'God of Conquest'?

Futari Wa Milky Holmes

They may not have powers but they have 'toys'. Intelligent and cute, Milky Holmes' detectives are on it. >



Fantasista Doll



< Dolls within data cards. Data within a cellphone. Uzume now has to battle using these Fantasista Dolls!

Rozen Maiden



We've seen what happened when Jun answered "yes". But what if he said "no"? >

Hyperdimension Neptunia



< After years of war between four states, could a peace treaty really change everything?

Senki Zesshou Symphogear G



After all that work restoring peace, Maria Cadenzavna Eve, along with the power of dark symphogear, declares war. >



Without witches but also without Madoka, Homura faces loneliness. With the trailer hinting at Ultimate Madoka, wraiths and a bow (that looks like Kyuubei??). The third and last movie will be worth the wait.

According to the trailer, the movie will premiere 10.26

Mahou Shoujo Madoka Magica: The Rebellion Story

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AUG. 24 (1PM-5PM)

- Meet and Greet
- Question and answer panel
- Autograph Signing
- Coscard Exchange
- Photo-ops
- Snacks
- Free time

AUG. 25 (10AM-9PM)

- Cosplay Catwalk
- Coscard Wall
- Grand Cosplay Ball
- Photography Contest
- Freebies to be given away
- Raffles
- Workshops
- And many more!!



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Stepping on Roses

requested by Hikari Chan
written by Kent
manga available in Eiwa Manga Store



Sumi Kitamura is just one of the penniless 15-year old girls in the Meiji 25 period. She has an irresponsible brother, Eisuke, who keeps on bringing home orphans. Tomi, one of the adopted sister, becomes ill and Sumi gets desperate. Then a debt collector comes demanding for 2000 yen from Eisuke, who is nowhere to be found, forcing Sumi to sell herself in the red light district in a desperate attempt to raise money in one night.

Soichiro Ashida buys her, promises to pay all their debts and medicine but not as Sumi expected. Now, she has to marry him without falling for him!

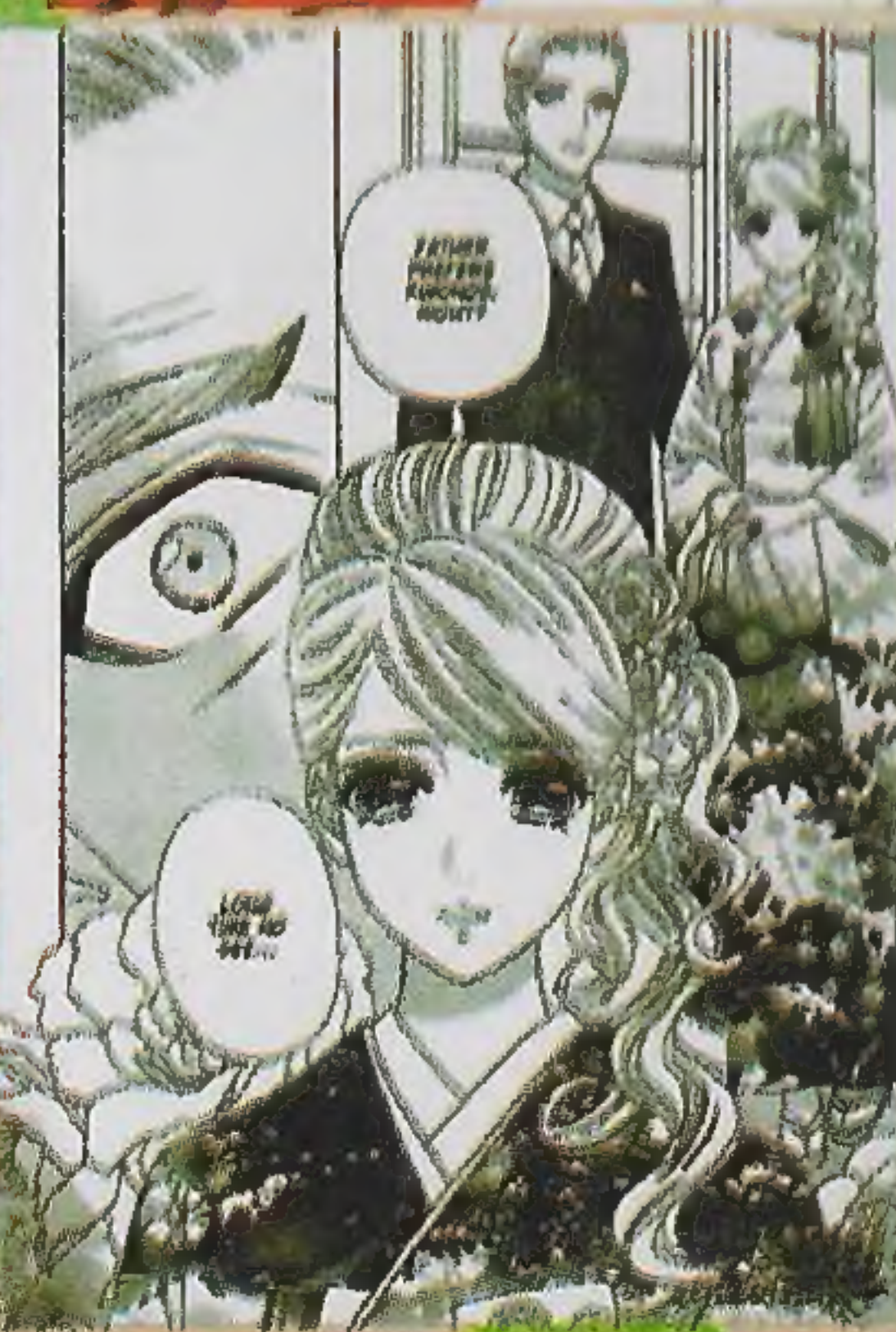


The manga is written and illustrated by **Rinko Ueda**. The idea of 'contracted marriage' is not new to a typical shoujo story, neither is the poor-meets-rich kind of relationship. However, Ueda created such a beautiful mixture of both ideas using characters that are realistic, as she had done in Prince of Tennis and Tail of the Moon.

The art is beautiful, conveying the character's emotions well and illustrating the background perfectly for the readers to feel the scenery.

In the end, Sumi and Soichiro falls in love but not without obstacles. After all that they go through, it makes their relationship even more stronger.

It is a manga worth your time, tears and effort. Enjoy!



BLEACH

requested by AJ Dragneel Hitsugaya
written by Kent



Where do souls go? Is there a heaven? Hell?

Rukia Kuchiki answered these questions. You see, she's a Shinigami (Death God) or more appropriately, a Soul Reaper.

Ichigo Kurosaki can see spirits. He's constantly stalked by them asking for help. It's not that he doesn't want to... he just doesn't know how. One day, a girl barges into her room with a katana. Mistaking her for another spirit, he gets mad at her. She is, of course, Rukia.

She explained to him the nature of her work. There exists two kinds of spirits: good spirits are called Plus and dangerous spirits called Hollow, that were once lost souls who can't crossover to the 'other side' and are stuck on earth. They become desperate and become Hollows and attack anyone living or dead by devouring souls. She explains that she's sent by Soul Society, an organization with two jobs.

Soul Society helps Pluses crossover: good ones go to Soul Society and bad ones go to Hell. They also exorcise Hollows, forgiving their sins and helping them crossover as well.

A very powerful Hollow attacked Ichigo's sisters. Ichigo challenges the Hollow and Rukia saved him. Injured, she desperately gives Ichigo her powers so he could protect them all.

Transformed to a Soul Reaper (temporarily), Ichigo defeats the Hollow in three swings. Rukia sees all this and soon realizes that he had all the makings of a Death God: high spirit energy, keen spiritual senses, superhuman strength and a human-size Zanpakuto.

Since the size, shape and abilities of a Zanpakuto are based on the Shinigami's soul, Ichigo's huge sword meant his spirit energy is over-the-top powerful. Is it enough to save his family, his friends, everyone?

Probably.
evil smirk

A lot still has to be known about Soul Society, Shinigamis, Ichigo, Rukia and Hollows. However, Bleach anime has ended leaving us with 366 episodes or 16 seasons (but rumor has it that the series will return...someday) but Bleach manga is still ongoing (way to go, Tite Kubo!!) There are also four full length movies.



Suisei no Gargantia



Enclosed in unbreakable ice for thousands of years, Earth is lost and mankind has reverted to living in an artificial paradise called Avalon.

There is, however, constant threat known as **Hideauze**, tentacled alien species with an unknown purpose. The humans formed the Galactic Alliance of Humankind to engage the threat.

16-year old Ensign **Ledo** is a soldier piloting a Machine Caliber. At the start of the series, GAH is to attack the Blossom Sail, shield and weapon of the Hideauze. The operation goes awry and everyone is forced to retreat. Ledo isn't able to return to the ship and is cast out in space in a wormhole.

The Machine Caliber is an AI-automated, battle suit. Named '**Chamber**' by Ledo, he is able to preserve his pilot in cryo-stasis for six months. When he is taken by a salvage ship and when humanoid creatures try taking him apart, Chamber wakes Ledo for instructions.

Ledo informs Chamber that the humanoid creatures are human. They conclude that they are a primitive race because of their language, tools and clothes. He thinks they are a wandering tribe, deviating from Avalon. To avoid aggressive contact, he takes a hostage.

Amy is a delivery girl who has a fascination with... well, almost everything. She was sent to Bellows, captain of the salvage ship that recovered Chamber. Amy sees the machine and is amazed. She urges Pinion that night to let her see the machine alone. There, Ledo takes her as hostage.

Driven to a corner, Ledo lets Amy free and calls Chamber to him. Much to his surprise, Amy tells him that he is on Earth after all the ice melted away leaving the vast ocean. They learn that they are on a barge connecting smaller ships called Gargantia. Other than pirates, it's more or less a peaceful life.

Being a soldier all his life, knowing nothing else but how to fight, what can peace do to Ledo? Will he be able to return to Avalon?

With stunning graphics and detail, **Gargantia on a Verdurous Planet** is a beauty to behold. The story is also refreshing amidst all the animes about fighting, titans, robots, killer bears and magical girls. The music complements the peaceful Gargantia and the unending ocean. Much of the character development is on Ledo and on how he's able to communicate with Amy, live a peaceful life and befriend the other citizens.

Come August 28, the OVA will be released entitled, Abandoned Fleet.

Enjoy!

NISSIN YAKISOBATM

Yaki-sobrang sarap!



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OH YES! Oh-No! Manga Cosplay Camp came back for its second year last July 7 at the SMX Hall 1. This time around, not only were the venue and the displays bigger, but the prizes, the competition, and the hype and fun the event itself delivered.

Oh-No! Manga is the Philippines' Premier manga anthology magazine. They launched a new magazine which features five different indie manga titles:



• Coin and Flour

-in a world where Heaven receives love letters and Hell receives hate mail, there comes a day when stray love letters went to Hell. In response to this, the demon Coin sets out to deliver stray love letters to Heaven, where he meets the beautiful angel, Flour.



• 300 Perfect Game

-a story about high school student named Bob, a delinquent named Ryo, and a trickster named Andrew, who plots their own schemes to get to the beautiful yet cold lincho.



• Better Boyfriend

-after Junilyn's breakup with her boyfriend, she tells herself that she would be a better boyfriend if she was a boy. Then, through some strange accident, she drink her mother's drink and becomes a boy.



• Raysken D.Ice

-Detective Ice, D.Ice in short, is a detective at the Haring Yakal Police Department who is also known as the Blue Detective because of the color of his hair and clothes. He is also one of the top detectives in the country, able to solve cases alone.



• Karma

-Angels are here on Earth to protect people who are being targeted by demons, and one of them is named Rei Kuassary, whose power is based on fire.

From the get-go, the event was teeming of things to feast one's eyes on, be it the two tall and detailed displays: the magnificent Tokyo Tower and the crimson Sinanju from Gundam Unicorn, both of which are impossible to not notice; the Indie Islands filled with indie artists and their own mangas and doujinshi mangas, online game groups Cubizone Philippines promoting Forbidden Kingdom and Final Combat while Cherry Credits promotes Dragon Nest SEA and Avatar Star, and food stalls Glico giving a special offer for Pocky and Pretz, Octoboy, as well as Mogu Mogu giving away free sweet juice drinks.

First off the list was the **Vocabattle**, a singing competition where the singers had to sing in Japanese, and those who competed either sang their lungs out in solo or by pairs in order to give the audience their own rendition of their chosen pieces, all of which happened to be very memorable anime theme songs that got the crowd livened up and singing along in joyous nostalgia.

Ball Jointed Dolls (BJD) exhibit by Manika Manila



Den Isidoro surprised everyone by dancing the Gwilyomi in Syncredder!



Tokyo Tower looming at 30ft



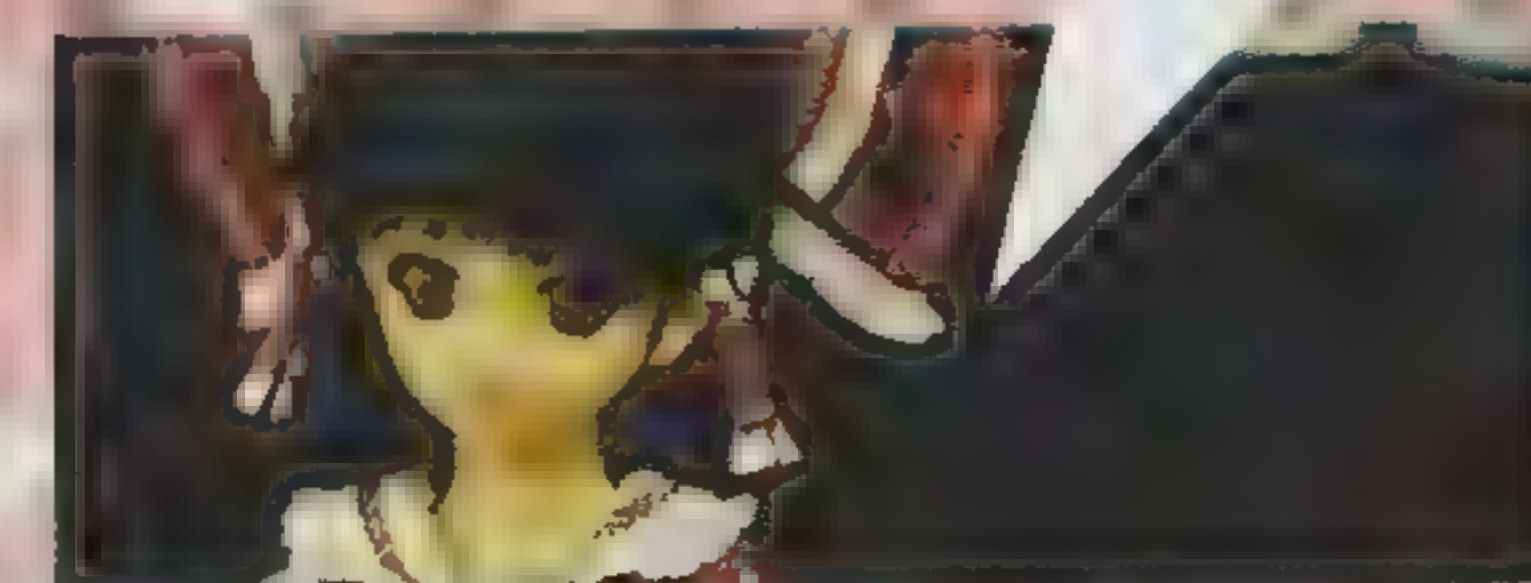
Mogu Mogu mascot is a nata!



Since this is Oh-No! Manga, the prizes didn't stop there, as Red Fox gave a pair of speakers to three costrippers who stood out from the crowd. For the adult category, it was Angel Sayoc who cosplayed as Mirai Suenaga, Kate Armea as a female version of Naruto for the teens category, and for the chibi category it was Melody as Aisaka Taiga mecha version.



Next up was the **Cosplay Crazy** competition, which divided the cosplayers into five different categories: Anime and Manga, Vocaloid, Western Comics, Games, and Mecha. But of course, not before a dazzling impromptu performance from the two young and beautiful judges – decorated cosplayer **Jia Gold Bustamante** as Leila Malkal of Code Geass: Akito the Exiled, and Cebu's most loved cosplayer, **Miles Semblante** as Rydia of the Mist from Final Fantasy IV. Aside from the joy of being able to cosplay their favorite characters in front of the fans, all the cosplayers were also given free crystal lenses from Geollica as a reward for their artistry.



As a breather from all the awesomeness that was the Cosplay Crazy competition, there was a **Gwiyomi** contest. Anyone who registered online can join, be it the regular congoer, a pair of cosplayers, a cute girl portraying a pink-haired maid, or even a Metal Hero. All of them gave their own version of the popular Korean aegyo, ranging from cute, girly, funny, or even manly.

Aside from the onstage events, there was also an **art competition**. There were two categories for it, the drawing category where contestants must draw a character from any of the titles in the Oh-No! Manga anthology magazine; and the coloring category where the contestants needed to color the official coloring sheet included in the anthology magazine.

The event totally rocked – literally, as local J-Rock bands, Se~No, Raika, Ikuzo Iwa, and Asterysk brought the house down with their awesome performances as they covered anime theme songs, be it from the latest or the greatest. After them was finally the chance of the guest band **No Leaf Clover**, who came all the way from Japan, to take the stage. With well-known Vocaloid producer Hayashi Kei for the lead vocals, everybody was cheering after every word he said, despite it being in Japanese.



GM Almadel as Elsword
with **Bolen Lareza** as Sinanju
Gundam

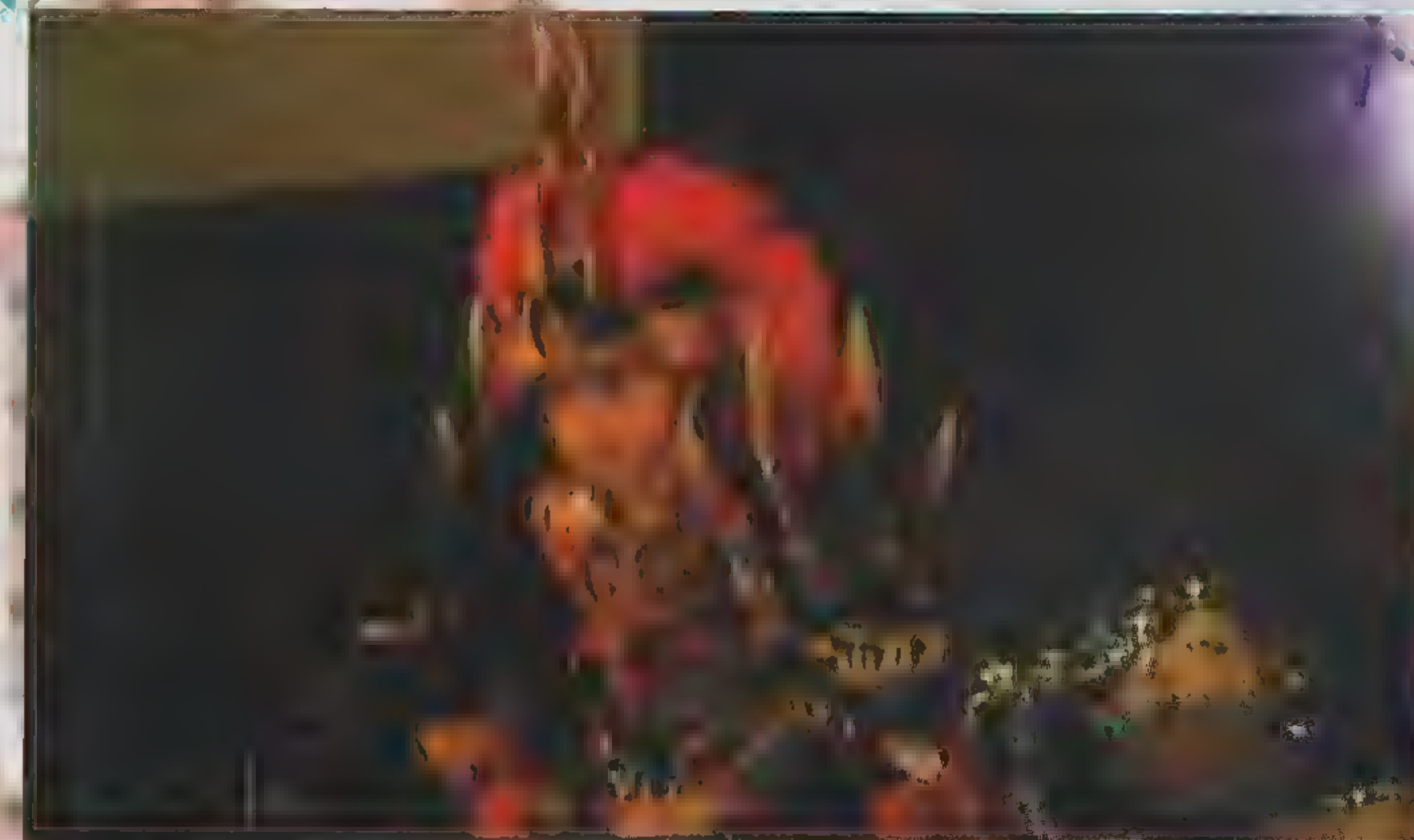
The quote "Third time's the charm" is proven because this is Oh-No! Manga's third event following Cosplay Camp 2012 and Otto Con.

We now look forward to a fourth!



Kei Hayashi and Ryohei Inai
of No Leaf Clover

Ashley Misaki
in General Lu Bu of Dynasty
Warriors



All in all, Oh-No! Manga Cosplay Camp 2 was a definite blast, not to mention a success. With all the fun, excitement, and celebration for otaku culture, everybody came home a winner.

P.S. No Leaf Clover played an encore performance and after the awarding ceremony, our very own GM Almadel snagged one of Hayashi's guitar pick!

CON IN FOCUS

Winners from the Oh-No! Manga Cosplay Camp 2 Team OA congratulates you all!

Vocabattle: **Danci Yuichiro**, who sang while cosplaying Sailor Saturn, won with her own rendition of Everything by Misia.

Gwiymi contest: it was no other than **Den "Sharivan" Isidoro's** manly version, as he even cosplayed as Syncredde while doing so.



For the **Art Contest**, the winners of the **Drawing Category** are the following:

- **James Atilo**
- **Alvin Bragais**
- **Jordan Pagsan**
- **Richelyn Dizon**
- **Camille Hope Hate**
- **Leslie Granada**
- **Andy Nilo**
- **Romnick Castillo**
- **Maria Clarisse Pangilinan**



The winners of the **Coloring Category** were the following:

- **Buta Chan**
- **Jean Nicole Pangilinan**
- **Elaine Hiloma**
- **Chelsea Dela Merced**

As for the **CosplayCrazy** contest, the winners of the different categories were the following:

Game Category: Ashley Misaki as General Lu Bu from Dynasty Warriors

Vocaloid Category: Mia Nozelle Casiano as Gumi

Mecha Category: Izaiah Buelos as Heavyarms Gundam from Gundam Wing

Anime Category: Eury Hagonoy as Teppei Takamiya from BTX



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MAGICAL BATTLE ARENA Magical Multiverse

Once in every millennium, in order to maintain the equilibrium and cosmic balance of magic amongst infinite parallel universe, a magical tournament is held to procure the greatest and most powerful mage. Many powerful individuals are extracted from their original world and are forcefully transported into an alternate dimension.

All participants are forced to fight through a series of magical battles and only the victor may claim the right to return to their world of origin along with any wish they desire. These participants are no mere pushovers. They each possess highly praised abilities and unlimited potentials that rivals one another. They may either abide by the rules or walk their own path and break through everything that gets in their way.

Deploy your magical attires, ready you incantations and steel your resolves, the magical battle royal of the millennium is about to begin!



Magical Battle Arena is a third person 3D aerial platform fighting game developed by Fly-System and Area ZERO which was first released on August 2008 during Comiket 74. It introduces a fighting style where players skillfully navigate through a 3D field and engage in aerial combat while using projectiles or melee skills. Aside from Story and VS mode, the game also offers Survival mode, Mission mode and Network Play that could be played by up to 4 players.

The game features a wide variety of mahou shoujo or magical girls from different franchises such as Card Captor Sakura, Magical Girls Lyrical Nanoha, Magic Knight Rayearth with many more and amounts to a total of 16 characters available for gameplay.



Nanoha Takamachi

Nanoha is the main character of the *Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha* series. She is a considered as a child prodigy in the magical world that possessed high rank magic from a very young age. Nanoha specializes in long range combat and could dish out lethal magical bombardments.

Sakura is the leading heroine of the *Cardcaptor Sakura* series. She accidentally released the Clow Cards and was entrusted with the duty to reseal them as the card captor.



Sakura Kinomoto

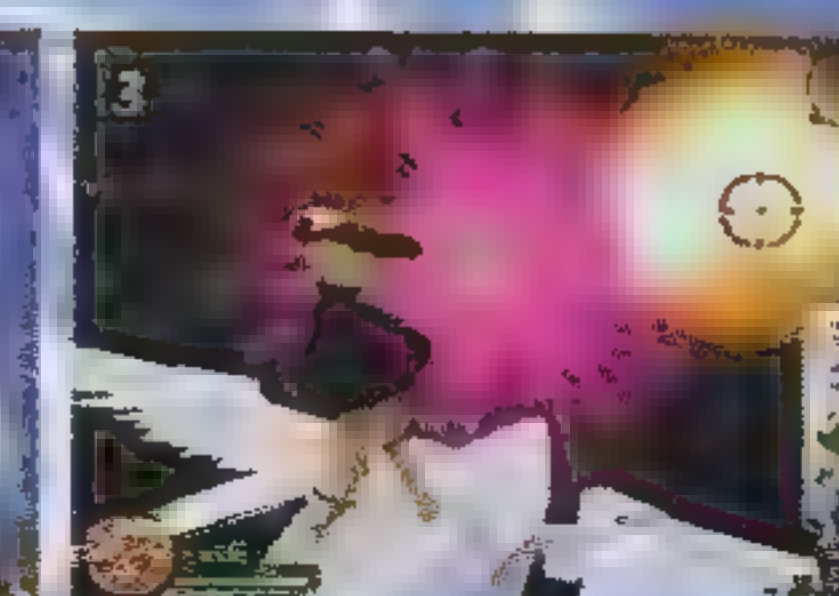
Sakura specializes in close range combat that proves deadly when she closes the distance between her enemies.



Lina Inverse

Lina is the infamous magical genius hailed as the most powerful sorceress in the land from the *Slayers* series. She is an all-rounder that could instantly end any battle with her overpowered spells.

Hikaru, Umi and Fuu are the magic knights that were summoned to save Cephiro from the series, *Magic Knights Rayearth*.



Hikaru Shidou, Umi Ryuuzaki and Fuu Hououji

They act as one character that could be swapped with each other and specializes in mid-range combat.



Nowel Diastasis

Nowel is one of the original characters introduce in *Magical Battle Arena*.

She has poor melee capabilities but proves to be quite lethal at range.

Button Commands!

Arrows= Move
Z = Ranged/Accept
X = Defense/Cancel
C = Dash
S = Powerup
D = Change target

Q = Fly vertically up
W = Fly vertically down
Esc = Pause

Special Movements

S + A = Melee special
S + Z = Ranged special
S + X = Guard special
S + C = Activate magic burst
S + C + A = Area of effect ranged special
S + C + Z = Ultimate special



東 Touhou 13.5

In an age of turmoil and nihilism, mankind turned to religion for salvation. Amidst the state of hopeless pessimism, Gensokyo's most prominent practitioners of Buddhism, Taoism and Shinto took this chance to make humans adhere their particular religion and expand their influence. Thus a competition for popularity is underway between different religions, while unbeknownst to most; a more eminent force is behind all the hopelessness and despair.



Touhou Masquerade - Hopeless Masquerade is Touhou 13.5 is the latest Touhou game. It is the first Touhou game that was developed and published by Team Shanghai Alice in collaboration with Twilight Frontier. Touhou 13.5's final version was released on May 2013 at Reitaisai 10.

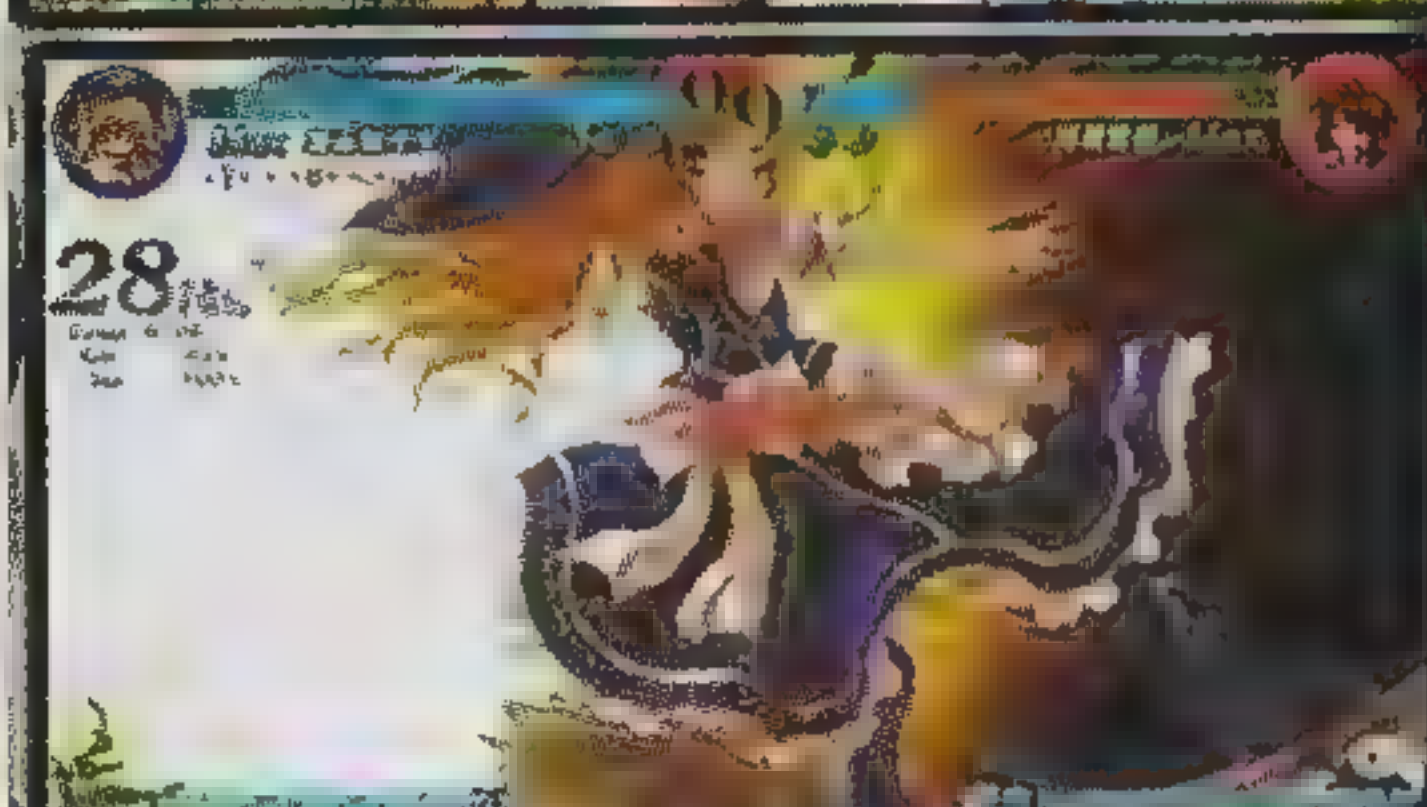
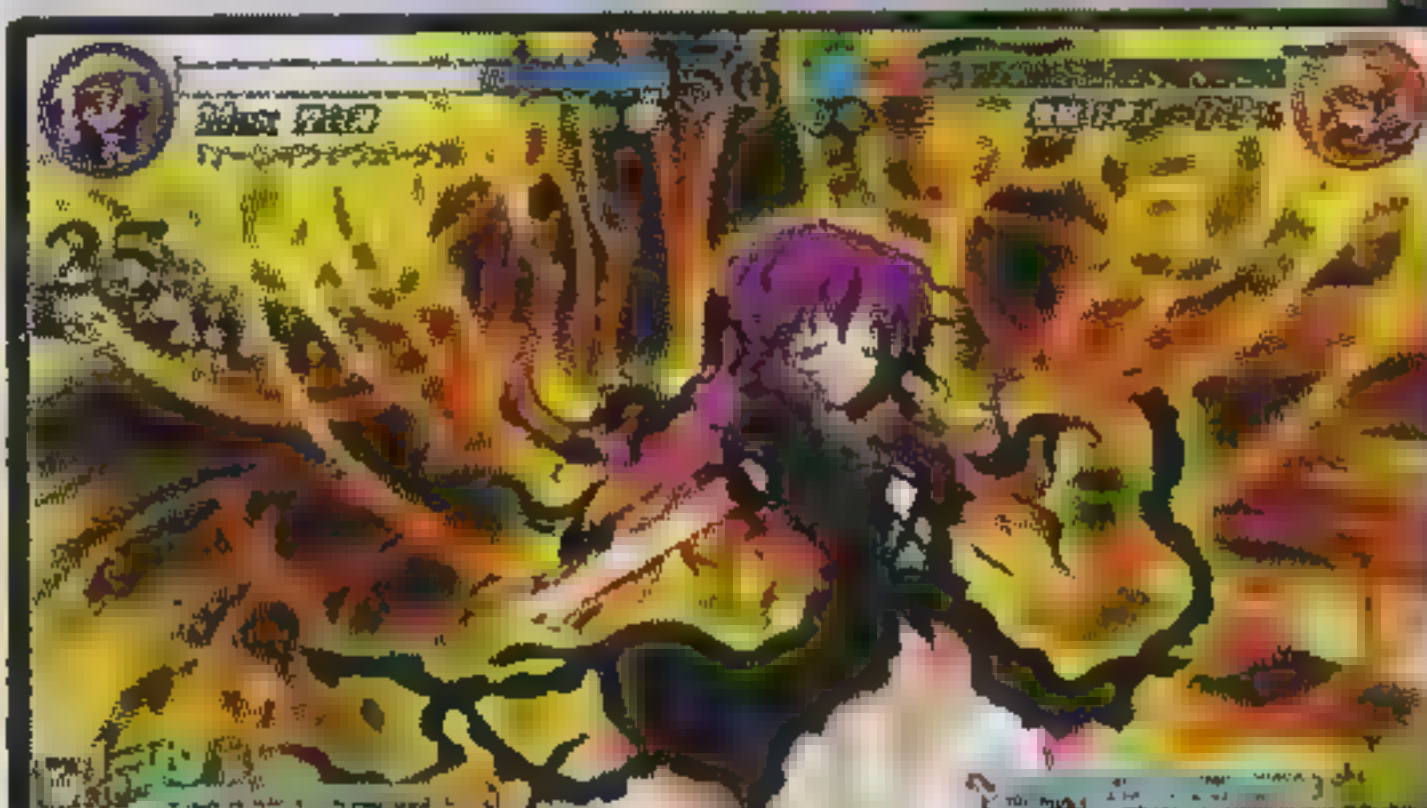
Rather than using the same concepts from its previous predecessors, the game was built from scratch. The game features new 2D character sprites which are completely different from previous games and 3D backgrounds are used for the stages resulting to a more perspective ambiance along with animated sprites of Touhou characters from previous games acting as spectators. Touhou 13.5 is also the first official game in the series to utilize the native resolution of 1280x720.

GAMEPLAY

Touhou 13.5 features a unique arcade gaming style with no ground combat. The game is a one-on-one aerial battle that incorporates both projectile and melee combat. Every character features different skills and styles employing players to use different strategies when controlling or opposing each character.

The game introduces the "Popularity System" that greatly affects the flow of the match. In the course of the match, certain action may increase or decrease a player's popularity. Gaining enough popularity gives the player a blue aura that provides their characters certain buffs, while losing popularity gives the player a red aura and provides their characters certain de-buffs. A player that achieves 100% popularity obtains a golden aura and gains the ability to execute a character's Last Word or most powerful attack.

Unlike its predecessors, the game uses a countdown timer. In the event of a timeout, the player who achieves a higher popularity automatically wins the round. With these conditions, that a player could emerge victorious by either knocking out your opponent or by gaining a higher popularity than your opponent before the timer runs out.



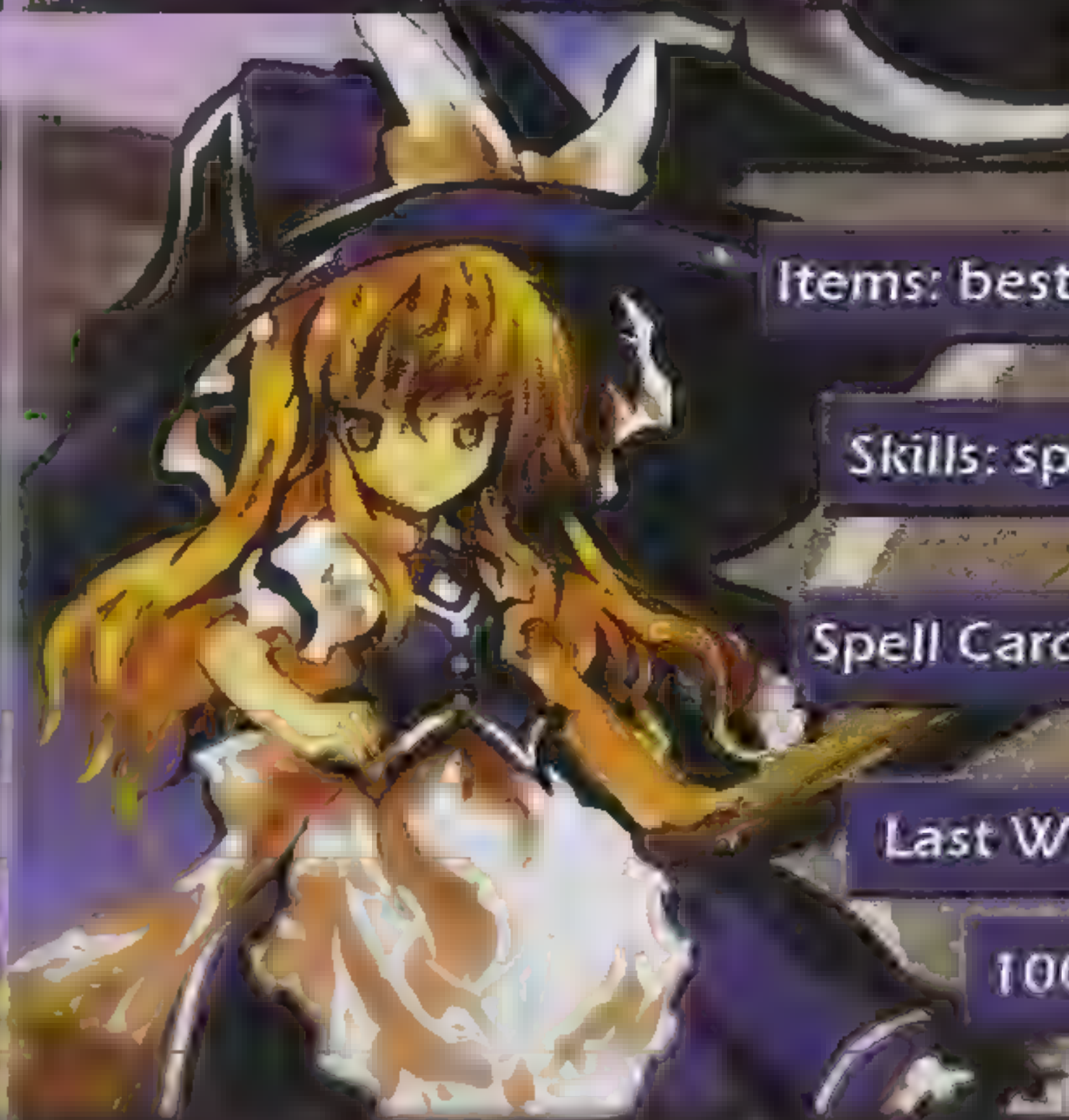
MUSIC

Music is considered as one of the Touhou Series' most formidable charm which possesses an oriental vibe and is widely praised by fans around the world. Touhou provides well-made music and compositions that attract player's attention. Hopeless Masquerade contains a total of nineteen tracks mostly composed by U2 Akiyama. ZUN, the leader of Team Shanghai Alice composed Hata no Kokoro's theme "The Lost Emotion".



SPELL CARDS

Of course, every Touhou game isn't complete without the ever so popular Spell Cards that could always turn the tides of the match. These Spell Cards varies from each other and may give a player certain advantages or benefits that may lead you to a very stylish victory. Touhou 13.5 features 4 types of cards: Items, Skills, Spells and Last Word.



Items: bestow beneficial effects on the player that grants various effects.

Skills: special moves that characters may use during battle.

Spell Cards: powerful attacks

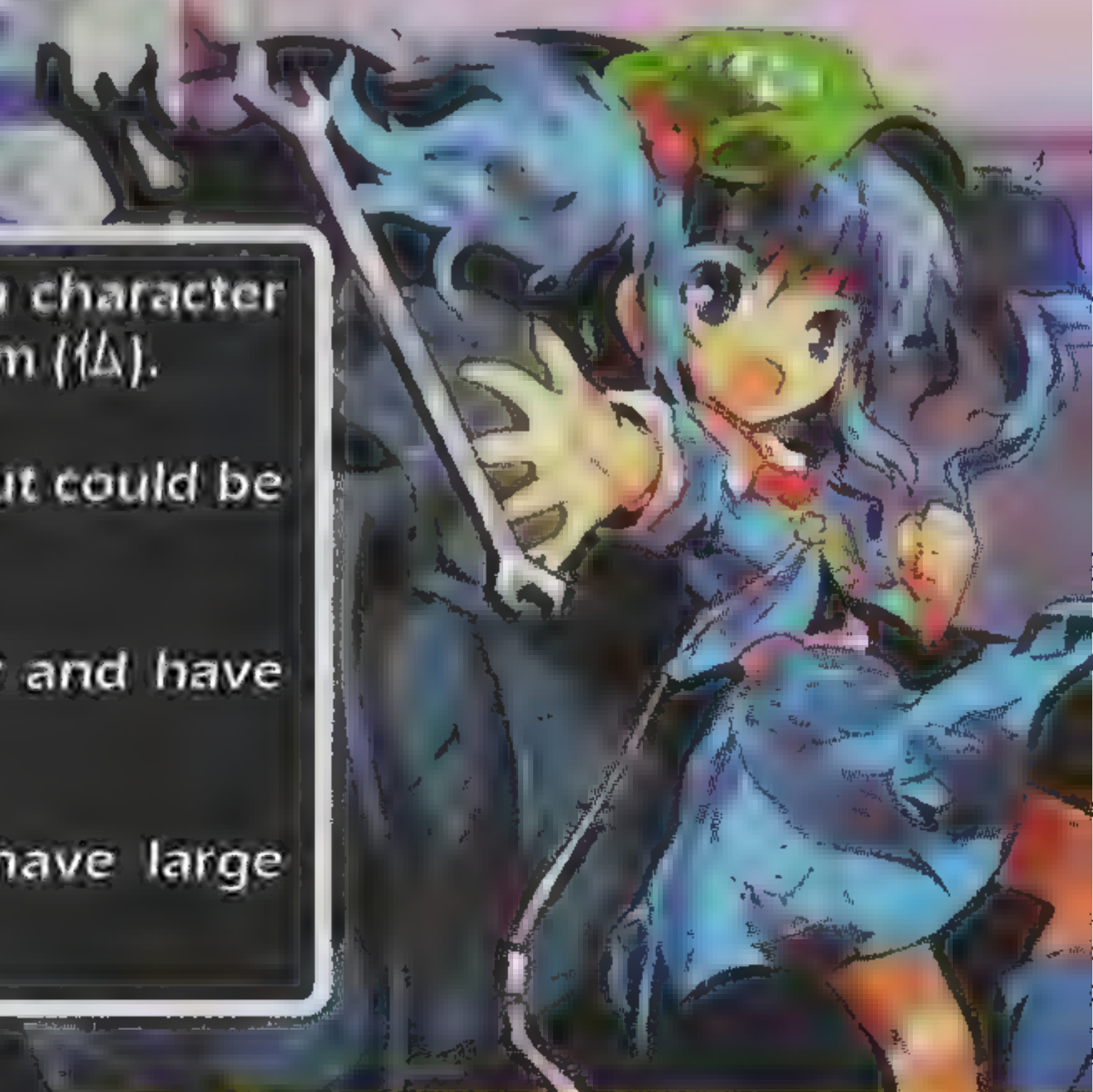
Last Word: every character's most powerful attack and requires

100% popularity.

FAITH

Hopeless Masquerade centers on the concept of Faith. Each character may or may not adhere to Shinto (神), Taoism (道) or Buddhism (仏).

- Shinto specializes in projectiles. Most bullets are homing but could be destroyed or nullified by other bullets.
- Taoism specializes in shooting speed. Bullets travel faster and have better penetration but have no homing capabilities.
- Buddhism specializes in melee or close combat. They have large bullets but they also have minimum range.



GAMER'S ARENA

Characters



REIMU HAKUREI

The Advocate of the Eight Million

Last Word: Fantasy Nature

Reimu is the infamous main character of the Touhou Series. She is a Shinto practitioner who exterminates Gensokyo's troublesome youkais as the shrine maiden of Hakurei. She is also hailed as the Shrine Maiden of Paradise.

BYAKUREN HIJIRI

The Acarya who Surpassed Primates

Last Word: Atharsaveda

Byakuren is the head priest of the Myouren Temple. She is a Buddhist monk and a powerful magician who was once sealed by humans for showing kindness and compassion for youkais but she is later released by the youkais she saved. Byakuren is also known as the Sealed Great Magician.

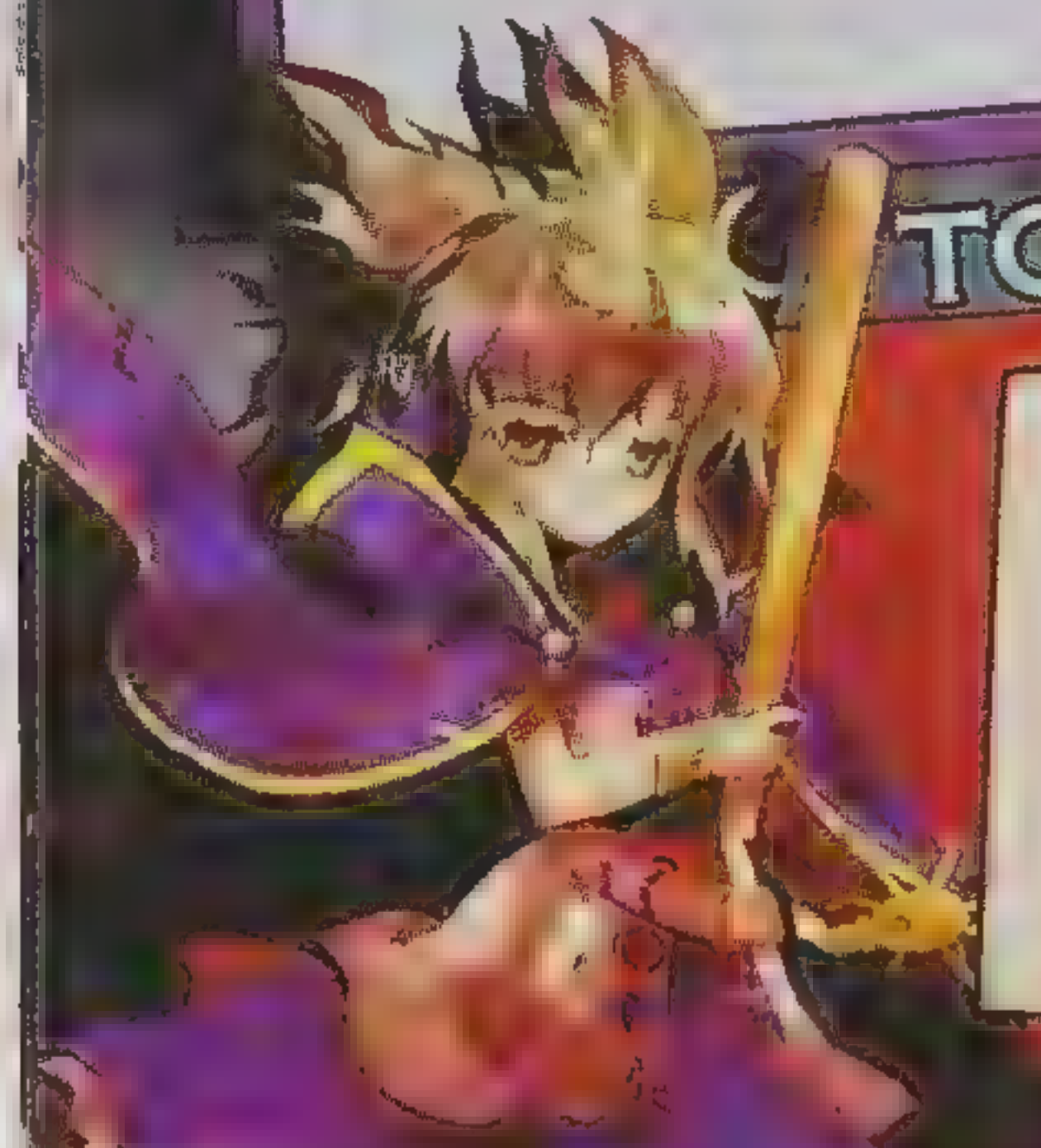


TOYOSATOMIMI NO MIKO

The Almighty Taoist who Administers the Cosmos

Last Word: Heed the Commands with Absolute Care

Miko is a saint with high intelligence. She practices Taoism as it provided her with immortality and superhuman strength. She lives her life as a hermit and is widely known as Shutoku Taoist.



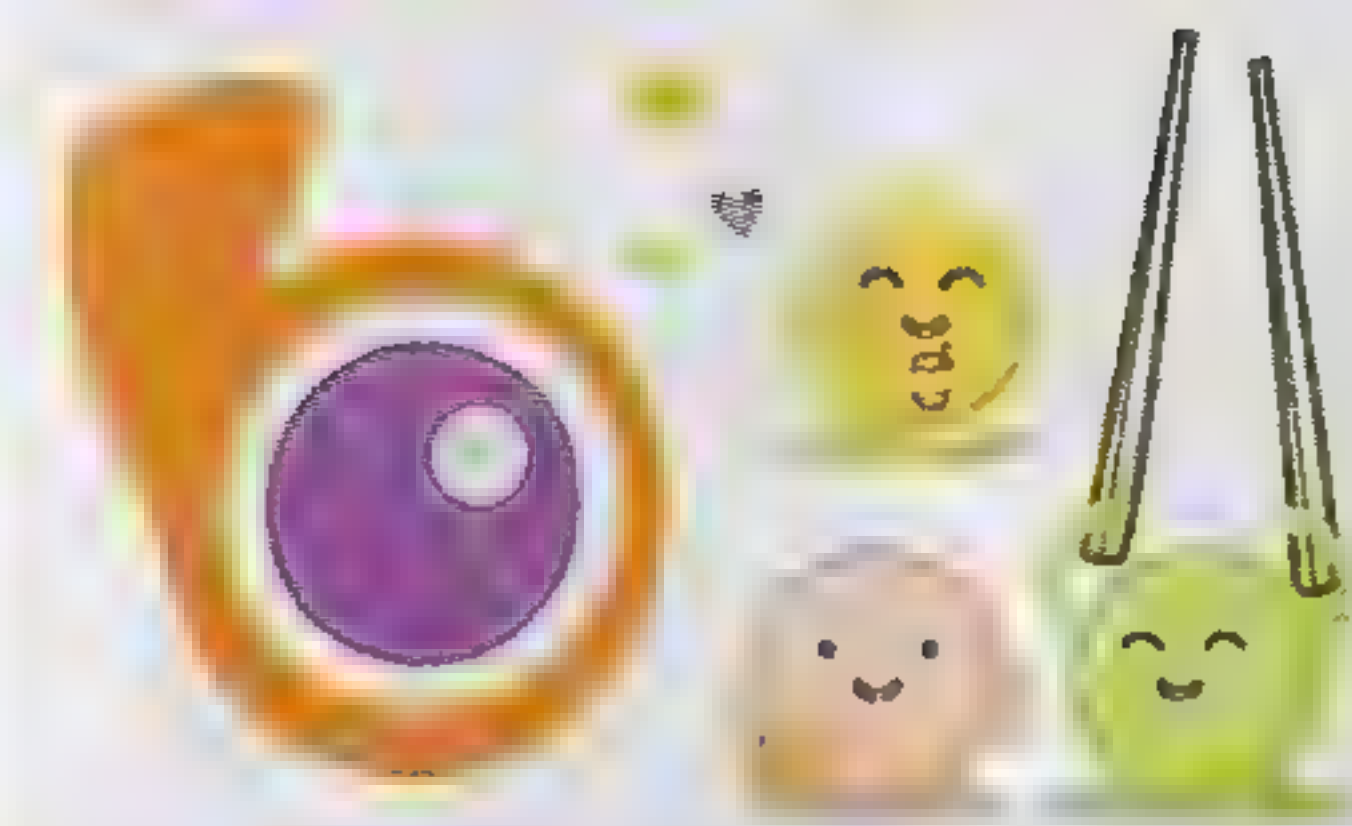
HATA NO KOKORO

The Expressive Poker Face

Hata no Kokoro is a new character introduced in Hopeless Masquerade and acts as the final boss of the game. Kokoro is a meinreiki youkai which are demons associated with mask. She is an emotionally devoid and lifeless individual and has the ability to control emotions of herself and other people. Kokoro possesses 66 masks that depict different emotions that she wears whenever she wants to express an emotion.



Hopeless Masquerade's story started when she lost her mask of hope. When Kokoro lost her hope, her ability to control emotions went berserk which affected her surroundings, causing the humans to lose hope and be enthralled in religious popularity contest.



Tokyo Bubble Tea is a great Japanese place to have your lunch, light snack meals, dinner or even when you come with your sesame street pajamas to have your midnight snacks. It is a great place to hangout with your friends and family where our ambiance encourages fun and laughter from menu, service and comfy place all year round!

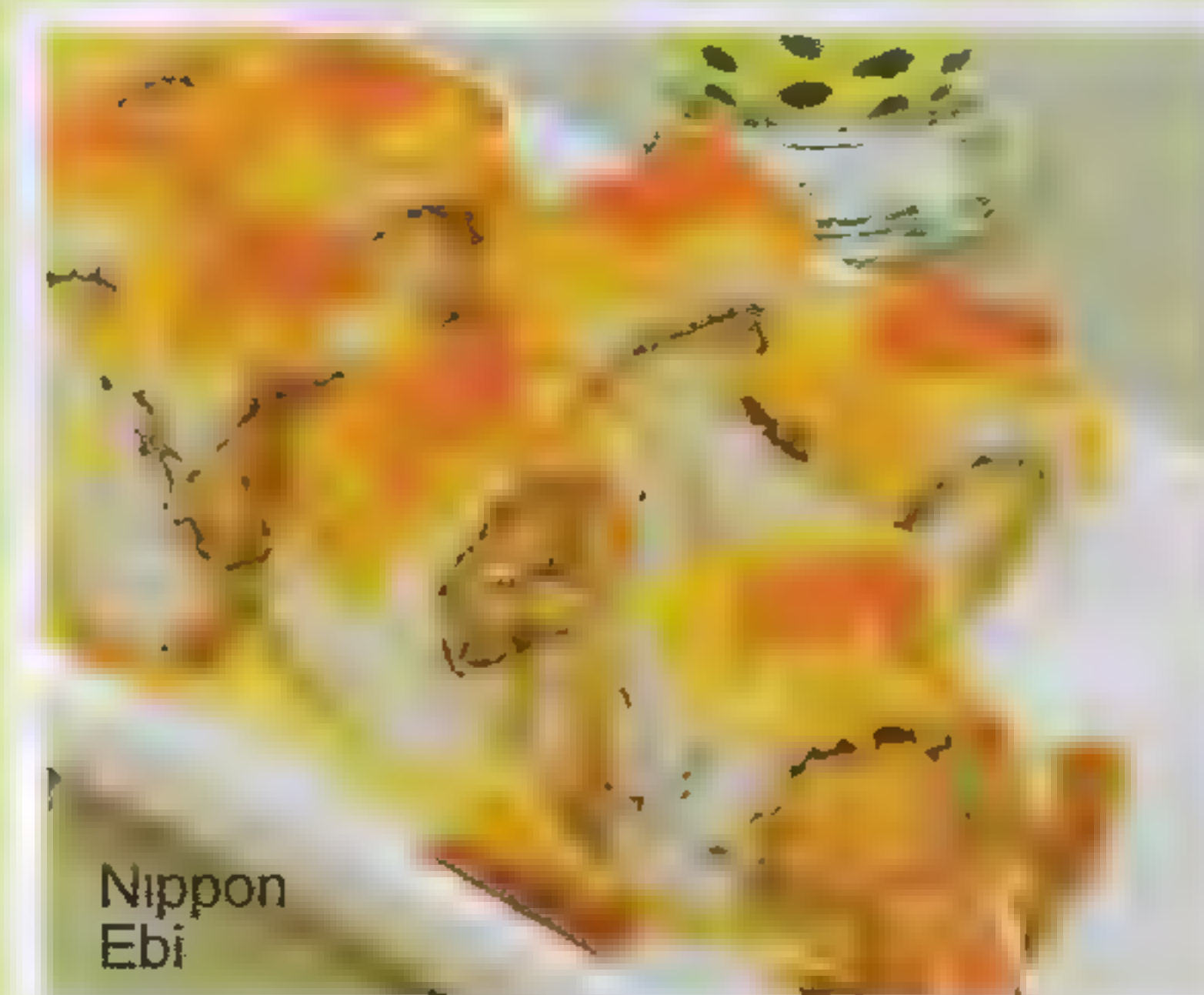


Our Story

Tokyo Bubble Tea restaurant is a Philippine homegrown concept founded and managed by McWilson Group of Restaurants. It all started year 2007 when McWilson Group of Restaurants owners wished to introduce bubble milk tea drinks in Manila, along with Japanese style ambiance and food. The name bubble tea is derived from the drink popularized around Asia and we used it as our brand name to represent us that we specialize in brewing premium milk tea served with the best bubbles.

Our Product

We brew our tea everyday to give you the top-quality, fresh, healthy and all natural Tea drinks served with fun soft-chewy bubbles, Tokyo style. In addition, we only offer good, healthy and freshly-cooked food to make sure you get the best out of your favorite Japanese cuisine.



Nippon Ebi



Beef Gyudon

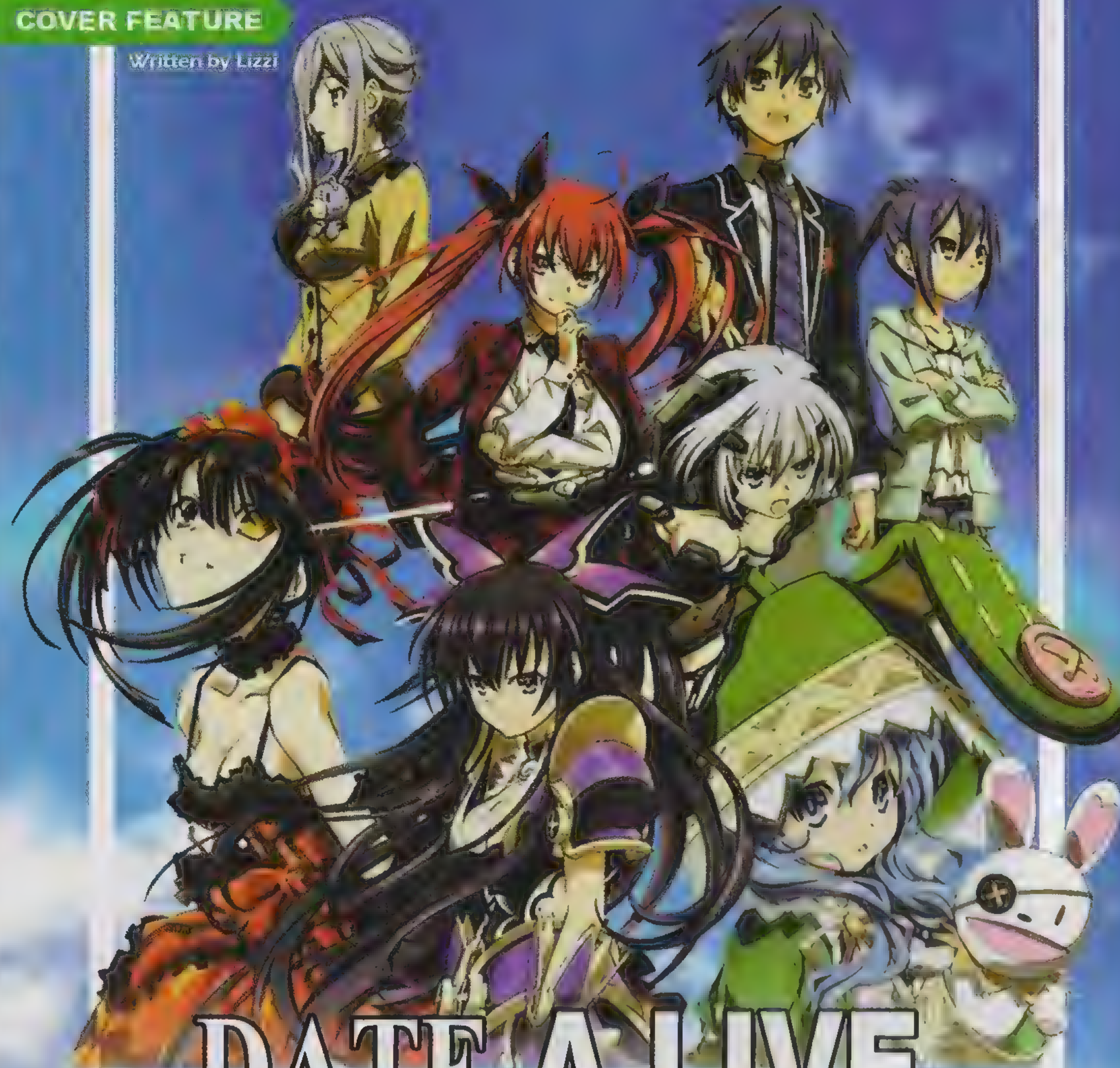


Due to overwhelming response of our customers, Bubble Tea is planning to expand its business and open more outlets in and outside Metro Manila.

Currently, Bubble Tea has branches in SM Megamall & SM North EDSA-The Block, which started 2007, and in Tomas Morato, Q.C. & Wilson, Greenhills, which started 2010, at The Fort, which started 2011 and now open at Westgate in Alabang, Harborpoint in Subic, Robinsons Place in Bacolod and Marquee Mall in Pampanga.

COVER FEATURE

Written by Lizzi



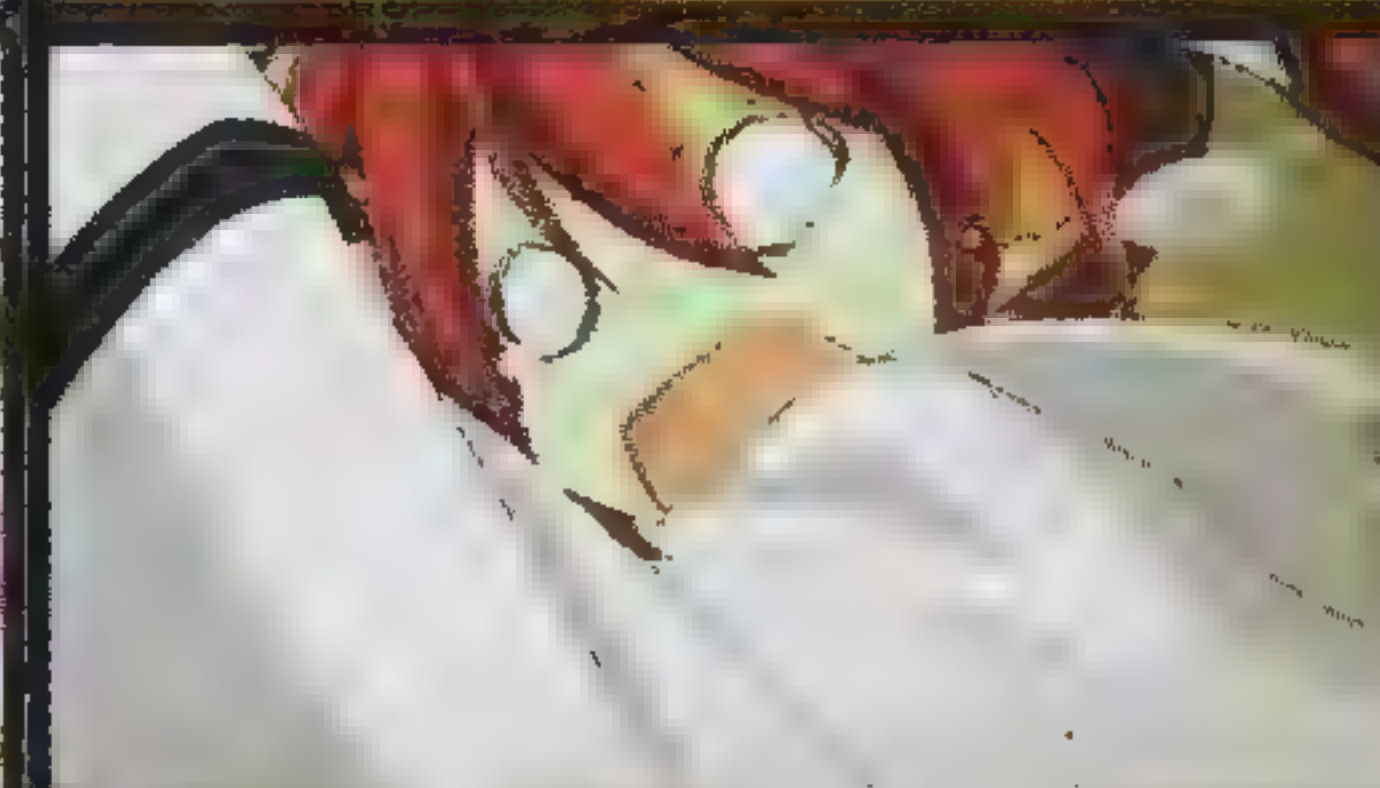
DATE A LIVE

In times of natural disasters, we all have accepted the fact that we cannot fight nature head-on, and the only solution is to lessen the damages it will cause. Especially in a country like Japan where earthquakes are virtually a normal occurrence, people are not frightened of it any longer. But what if the tremors are caused by something which the human race can physically fight? It may be a supernatural entity, or a pseudo angel which the human force cannot defeat. People are now faced with two solutions in hand: fight them like it is war, or make love and peace. Which do you think would be more effective?

Thirty years ago, in the Great South Island Area, an occurrence called spacequake took almost 150 million lives. Spacequakes are disturbances of the space of unidentified cause, somewhat like earthquakes, but definitely more dangerous and immediate. Whenever a spacequake takes place, space that contains schools, houses, and establishments can be wiped out in no time! It took same time for the citizens to rebuild their city since then, until lately, about five years ago, when small spacequake occurrences have frequented again.

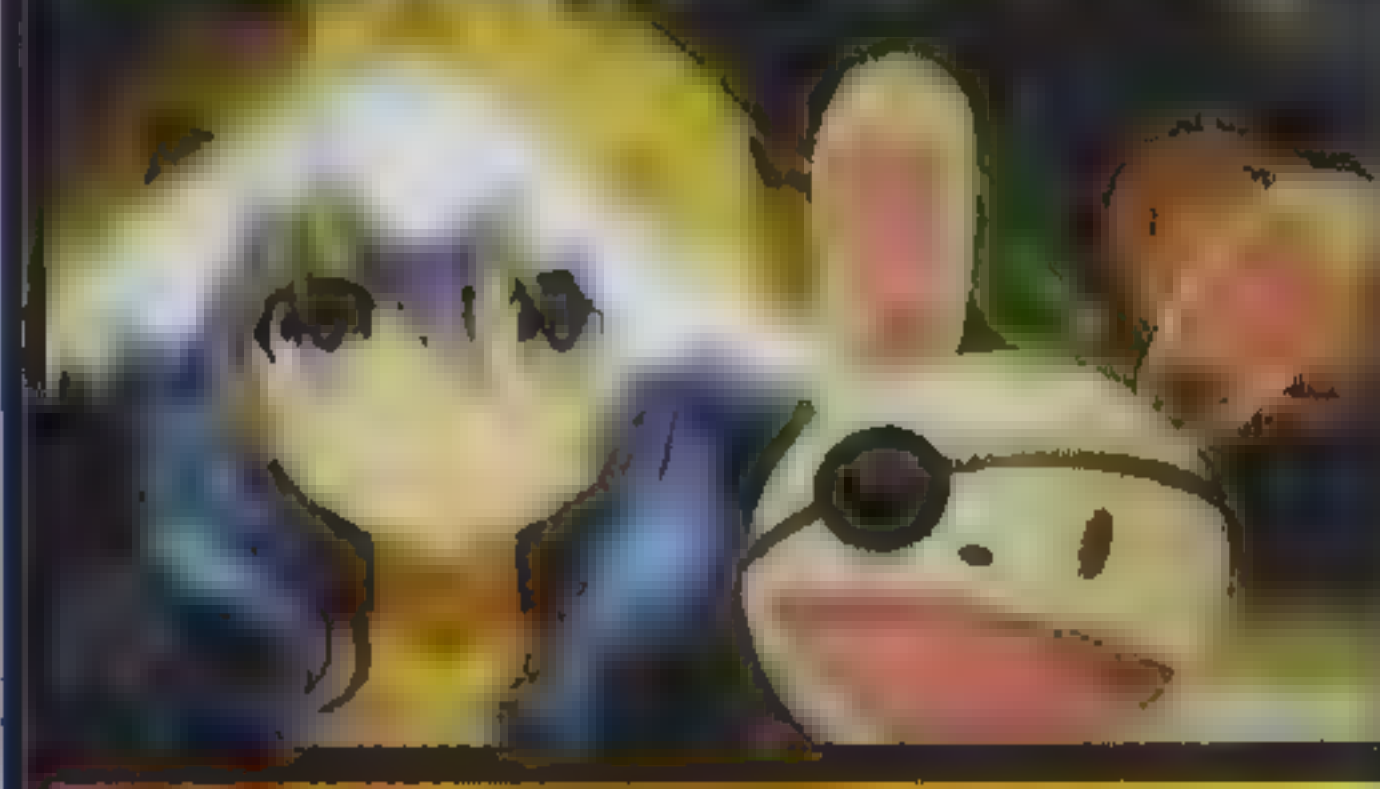
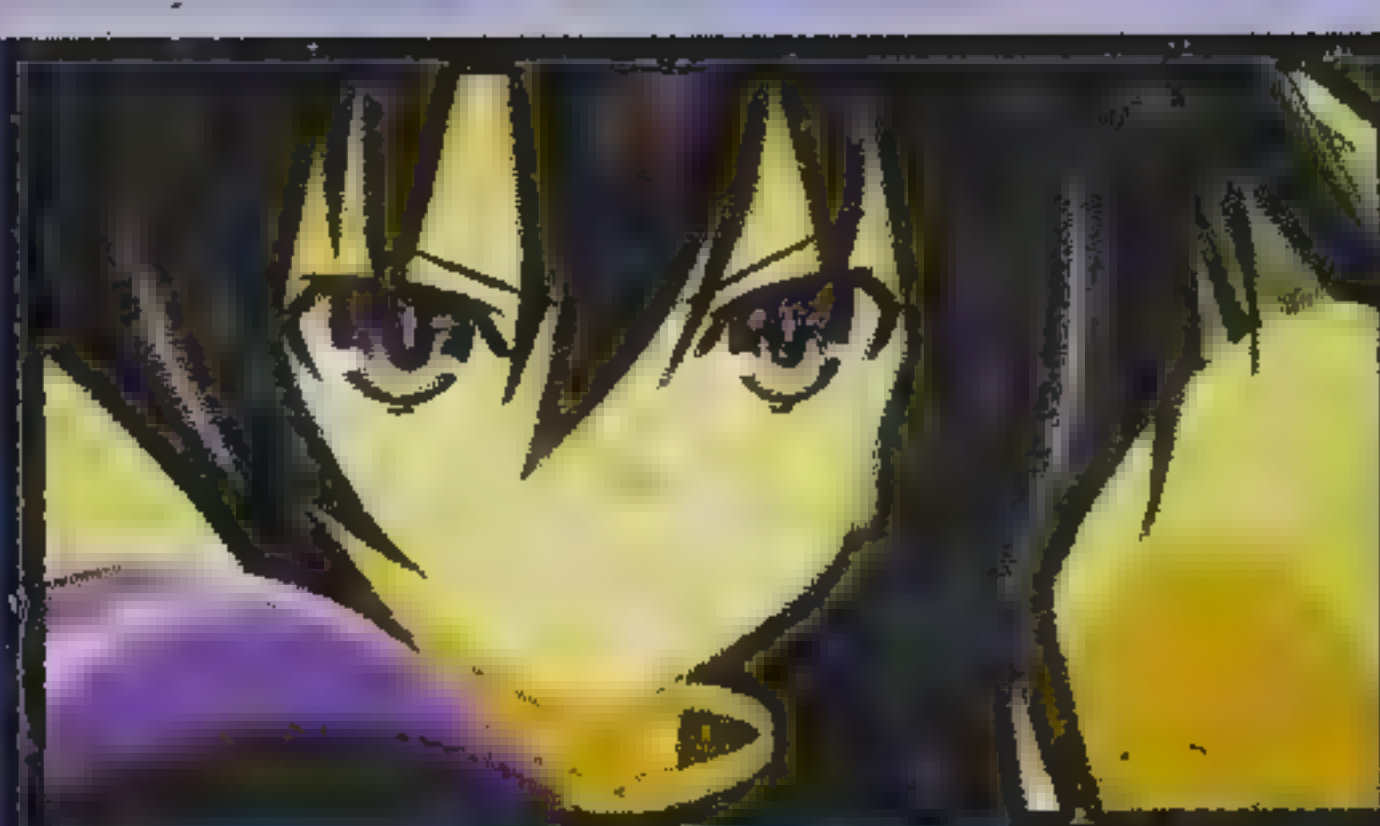
Shido Itsuka is an average high school student living a peaceful life with his sister, Kotori, in Tenguu City, even amidst small spacequake occasions. One fine day in school, upon hearing about a spacequake signal, Shido rushes to search for his sister Kotori in her favourite restaurant only to find out that she has gone missing. Some of the establishments have already been destroyed and the hollow in the ground has become visible due to the spacequake. Instead of finding his sister, Shido is surprised to see a beautiful girl with a sad look on her face, asking him, "Are you going to kill me, too?"

The question leaves him baffled when suddenly a group of armoured girls attack the beautiful girl standing right in front of him, and soon engage into an incredulous battle. The situation leaves him confused more than ever and caught up in between the commotion (and explosion!) When he wakes up, he finds himself with the Ratatoskr, an underground organization which his sister commands. The Ratatoskr team explains about Spirits, the entities that uncontrollably destroy space. One of those was the beautiful girl that Shido just saw. Ratatoskr aims to make the Spirits love the earth and forget their anger towards people. On the other hand, the Anti-Spirits Team or AST of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force uses aggression to fight the Spirits, the team that attacked the beautiful Spirit.



Now, Shido is forced to assist Ratatoskr by making the Spirits fall in love with him with the help of a dating sim system! But AST is clueless about Ratatoskr's underground movement, so they continue with the brutal mission. The fate of the earth lies in the hands of these people: love or war?

Date A Live anime is just like its protagonist, Shido. It is a natural combination of funny but serious moments, giving it a good balance necessary for the shounen genre. It was originally a light novel written by Koushi Tachibana and published by Fujimi Shobo. Later on, the studio AIC PLUS+ and Fujimi Shobo made an anime and manga adaptation respectively. Experience a place where magic and science and technology meet with Date A Live!



THE DATE A LIVE PARTICIPANTS

A date is not a date without the participants! Date A Live! has wonderful characters, predominantly girls, that everyone should get acquainted with. Like Shido, you get to choose from various characters presented here to you, and see which of them are the most likeable!



Choice A: Shido Itsuka

Shido is a simple high school student, often dense about what's going on around him. His personality is somewhat in between cheerful and serious. His balanced nature makes him the perfect bait for the Spirits and the best communicator there is. If he doesn't like the choices in the dating sim system, he creates his own answers to the Spirits' questions. Because of his free will, the flow of communication becomes very natural. Most of the time, the choices he makes are correct. Shido is a passionate young man but he is quite hard to read especially during encounters with Spirits. His willingness to help the Spirits can be misjudged as love, and it is not clear whether his intentions are genuine or if he is just carried away by the instructions from the command center. Nonetheless, Shido is generous and understanding, traits that are distinctive of a male protagonist.

Seiyuu: Nobunaga Shimazaki
(Photokano, Maeda Kazuya, Free! Haruka Nanase)

Choice B: Kotori Itsuka

Kotori is Shido's foster sister. She has been living with Shido ever since they were children. At first, she was portrayed as a sweet and clingy girl to her brother, often misinterpreted as a brother complex by some of the gossip girls in the city. However, when she has been re-introduced as the commander of Ratatoskr, her attitude begins to change. She is now seen as a bratty commander with a brash attitude especially towards Shido and Vice Commander, Kannazuki Kyouhei. Even if she reprimands Shido frequently, she still cares about her brother. Kotori's past is unknown to her and her memories are too vague yet to extract any solid information.

Seiyuu: Ayana Taketatsu
(Highschool of the Dead, Alice Maresato; K-On!, Azusa Nakano)



Choice C: Origami Tobiichi

Origami is the most popular girl in Raizen's High because of her great academic and non-academic skills. Although these characteristics were rarely implied in school, she displays them anytime there is an encounter with Spirits as a member of the AST. Her determination to exterminate Spirits roots from her parents' deaths due to a earthquake. Origami is one of the girls whom Shido had a crush on for her training as the commander. Her feelings to Shido are already a given and it explains a lot about her feelings for him. She does not hold back her feeling like for Shido, but a faint smile on her face. Most of the time, she is wearing a blank expression even if she's already conveying her feelings to Shido.

Seiyuu: Misuzu Togami
(Mirai Nikki, Yurimura Amano, Nichijou, Aoi Muramatsu)

Choice D: Tohka Yatogami

She first appeared as the Spirit who had a sad expression on her face when she encountered Shido. Tohka is perhaps one of the most difficult Spirits to handle. She thinks that all people have the desire to kill her. Tohka is a hot-and-cold entity. She doesn't trust people easily, and she changes her mind if she thinks that the person talking to her is inconsistent. Tohka deliberately finds inconsistencies in Shido's words, and threatens to destroy another space and kill him. But seeing Shido's sincerity to get to know her better, eventually, Tohka gives in to Shido. She realizes that the world is not a bad place to live in and that the people are not harmful because of Shido. She develops some kind of an obsession for Shido and always yearns to be by his side most of the time, so she transfers to Raizen High, even with the uniform! She often competes with Origami for Shido's love.

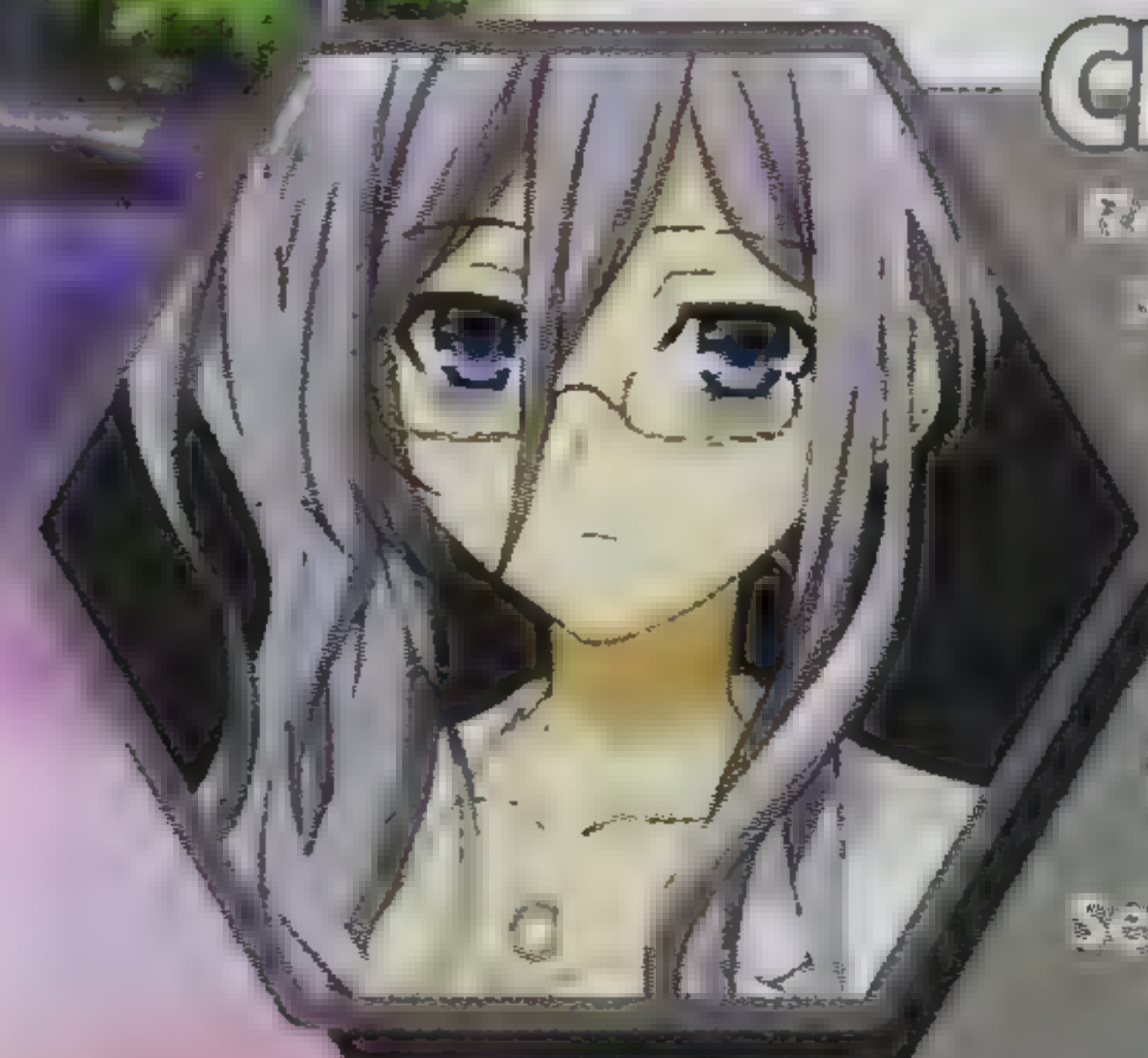
Seiyuu: Marina Inoue
(Highschool of the Dead, Rei Miyamoto, Skip Beat!, Kyouko Mogami)



Choice E: Reine Murasame

Reine is the busy analysis officer of the Ratatoskr team. She seems knowledgeable on general tasks, both on the theoretical and practical sides of it. But she doesn't have the qualifications! Reine seems tired and lazy all the time, but that is quite the opposite. She is very hard working, which probably explains the dark circles under her eyes. She is obedient to Kotori and does not try to negate her instructions.

Seiyuu: Aya Endou
(Karneval, Tsubasa, Guilty Crown, Arisa Kihouin)



LOVE VS. WAR

Both organizations (Ratatoskr and AST) have the right to defend their stand in dealing with Spirits, but the situation and the methods must also be weighed.

Ratatoskr

VS

AST

FOUNDATION

Private individuals have formed this organization.

The team is funded by the government's defense force.

METHOD

They want to develop the love emotion of the Spirits through a dating system. Ratatoskr provides training software for Shido, the Spirit communicator. The training software includes two stages: theoretical and practice.

They use astounding weapons to level up to the immense power of the Spirits. They have Combat Realizers provided by the DEM Industries to expand human capabilities, coupled with offense and defense mechanisms.

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Teaching the spirits how to love is the core foundation of Ratatoskr everyday activities.

Annihilation of the Spirits is AST's main goal.

CORE MEMBERS

The Ratatoskr team is composed of people from different fields and industries, but with one common expertise: dating.

The AST consists of intelligent, highly-skilled, and stoic young girls, capable of obliterating the Spirits.

DESIRED TRANSFORMATION

The team believes that love will change the minds of the Spirits in order to control their irrepressible desire to destroy space.

The defense force thinks that eliminating the very cause of spacequakes, the Spirits, is the most effective tool in dealing with it.

ACTIVITIES

The Ratatoskr team locates spacequake signals to be able to talk to the Spirits. The team serves as the coach to Shido, the mediator between the humans and the Spirits. When the Spirit throws a question at him, Ratatoskr communicates a variety of answers to Shido with the use of a small device attached to his ear. Then, the staff members will be asked to vote for the best answer suitable for the situation, just like how a dating sim works.

No harm is done while using Ratatoskr's system. There is only peaceful communication with the Spirits.

A lot of Spirits are still out in the open and it would be difficult for Shido to communicate and maintain his relationship with them, which may lead to jealousy. This could risk Shido's life. The existence of this emotion among the Spirits could possibly lead to a more dangerous spacequake. Also, there is no guarantee that the Spirits would want a peaceful communication.

ADVANTAGES

AST mostly spies first on the Spirits before attacking them. They have high-tech devices that can locate Spirits in a destroyed space. AST's armours and weapons are able to transform according to the ability of the Spirit that confronts them. AST members cannot act freely without instructions from the command center, but their main objective does not change, and that is to eliminate Spirits at hand.

The root cause of spacequakes is immediately wiped out, decreasing the chances of experiencing spacequakes in the future.

AST's weapons cause destruction unintentionally to other establishments already destroyed by the spacequake, even with the existence of the technology called personal territory.

DISADVANTAGES

Also, AST's determination to exterminate the Spirits makes them advance their combat capabilities, which would make it even more difficult for AST to match their abilities with the Spirits.

In this sizzling anime of magic and science, the characters of Date A Live will be facing more adventures and the choices they have to make are becoming more crucial. As you go along the anime, you will get to know more characters that would make you wonder about that thin line between love and war. Which is which? As usual, the choice is yours to make!

BENTO BOX

We keep seeing this delectable treats in every anime now and then. Treats that are chewy, munchy and sometimes their fillings oozes out. What's more indulging to try out Japanese delicacies than seeing the popular sweet filling made of Azuki beans (small red beans) getting munched on by our favorite anime characters. Here it is, treats that have... The legendary,

Anko or Sweet red bean pastel



Koshian Tsubuan

*Anko that is pureed and has a fine texture is called **Koshi-an** while the one where the beans are just mashed for a bit is called **Tsubushi-an**.

TAIYAKI

The ever popular fish shaped cake that is often seen with its filling oozing out when

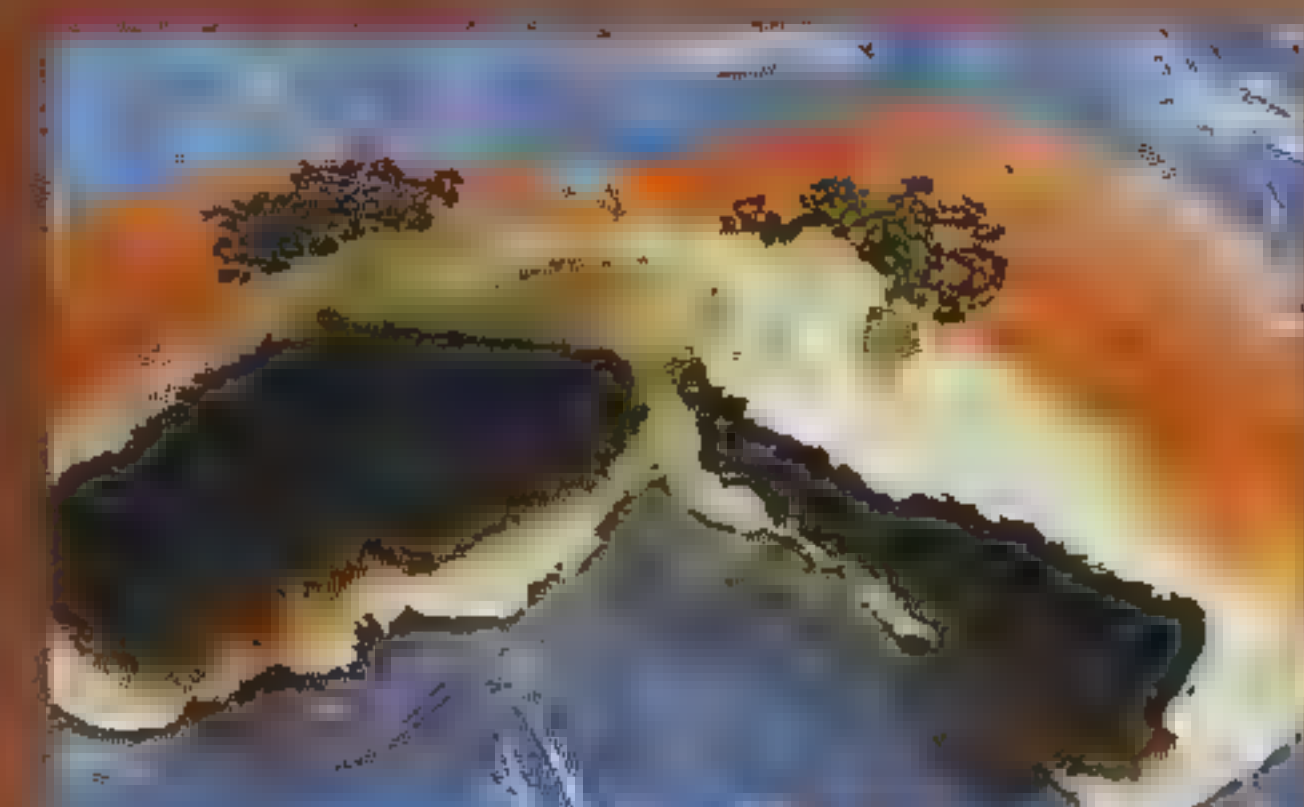


bitten. Taiyaki is made of regular pancake or waffle batter and is poured into a fish-shaped mold for both sides. The filling is placed on one side before the mold is closed. Other fillings may be custard, chocolate or cheese. While some even make taiyaki with okonomiyaki and gyoza filling!



MOCHI

Anyone remembers Monster Rancher? Mochi is a small, round and really cute Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice that is pounded into a paste by a mallet called kine and is molded into shape. It is usually colored in pink, white and green and have fillings that varies from custards, jellies or icecream. The most popular fillings for Mochi is, of course, Anko.



ANPAN

A slightly sweet bread that is made of bread flour and yeast, commonly filled with anko. In most animes, anpan can be found in convenient stores which makes it a perfect snack for keeping your energy up with its sweet filling partnered with the fluffy bread that balances the taste and texture. Often seen to be eaten with a carton of milk or some hot tea.



DORAYAKI

Doraemon's favorite snack. It is almost similar to the Taiyaki and Anpan, the difference is that the filling is not exactly inside the cake. A ball of anko is flattened then is squished between two flat breads.



SWISS ROLL CAKE

The Japanese version of the Swiss roll cake uses matcha (green tea) for its sponge cake rather than the usual chocolate or vanilla. The cake wraps the anko and whipped cream inside. Some puts icing, fruits or powdered sugar glaze on the top for an added sweetness. Its texture, mild taste and soft because of the filling, it is perfect for a snack served with green tea.

Delicious and tasty, it can be eaten anyway you want to! We hope you start eating anko from now on. Our favorite would be mochi, what's yours?



Honeybee Patisserie is not just your ordinary bakeshop. It offers a wide array of Japanese Inspired, freshly baked breads and homemade cakes and pastries.



You don't need to fly all the way to Japan just to have a taste of delightful treats. Located around Greenhills, The Fort and Westgate areas, Honeybee Patisserie can give you the taste of Tokyo's authentic desserts when you get that midnight sweet craving. They serve delicious and exciting twists to your palate. Try their very own Tokyo Tiramisu, Takoyaki Bread and Matcha Cappuccino that will surely make you come back for more!



Takoyaki Bread



Tokyo Tiramisu



Matcha Cappuccino



Chocolate Decadence



Honey Mango

For orders and pick-up:

Greenhills
229 Wilson St.,
Greenhills San Juan
584-1998
Mon-Sun (10Am- 1 AM)

Fort
Unit 2, G/F
The Fort Residences
30th St., Taguig
478-7483
Mon-Sun (9am- 4am)

Westgate
Unit 101 Cluster J,
Westgate Center,
Commerce Ave, Alabang
511-0939
Mon-Sun (11am-12am)

Ockibi-sama

Name:
Alexander P. Ramos
Age: 19

Brief explanation:

I made it on Photoshop Cs4 and Painttoolsai, actually I really like anime characters w/ Megane (Glasses) and that is the reason why I put megane on my work. That's all. Thank You Otaku Asia Team, More Power.



Sochii-kun

Name :
Chelsea Dela Merced
Age : 19

Brief Description:

I wanted Sochii kun to be young and adorable , probably he is about 10 of age.

I made him wear a jumper suit so he can store his cheese puffs rather than just holding the plastic container.



Written by Dianne

Chanting a magical word on a magical item, the outfit changing into a dress with ribbons and hearts and then becoming a different person with extraordinary magical powers. This is a common sight in the magical girl genre. To date, there have been many magical girl series and movies that have been released. Each series has its own style, different and unique outfits, weapons, abilities and origin. Now, let's take a look of 10 different magical girls as we classified them as the

NEW MILLENNIUM MAGICAL GIRLS

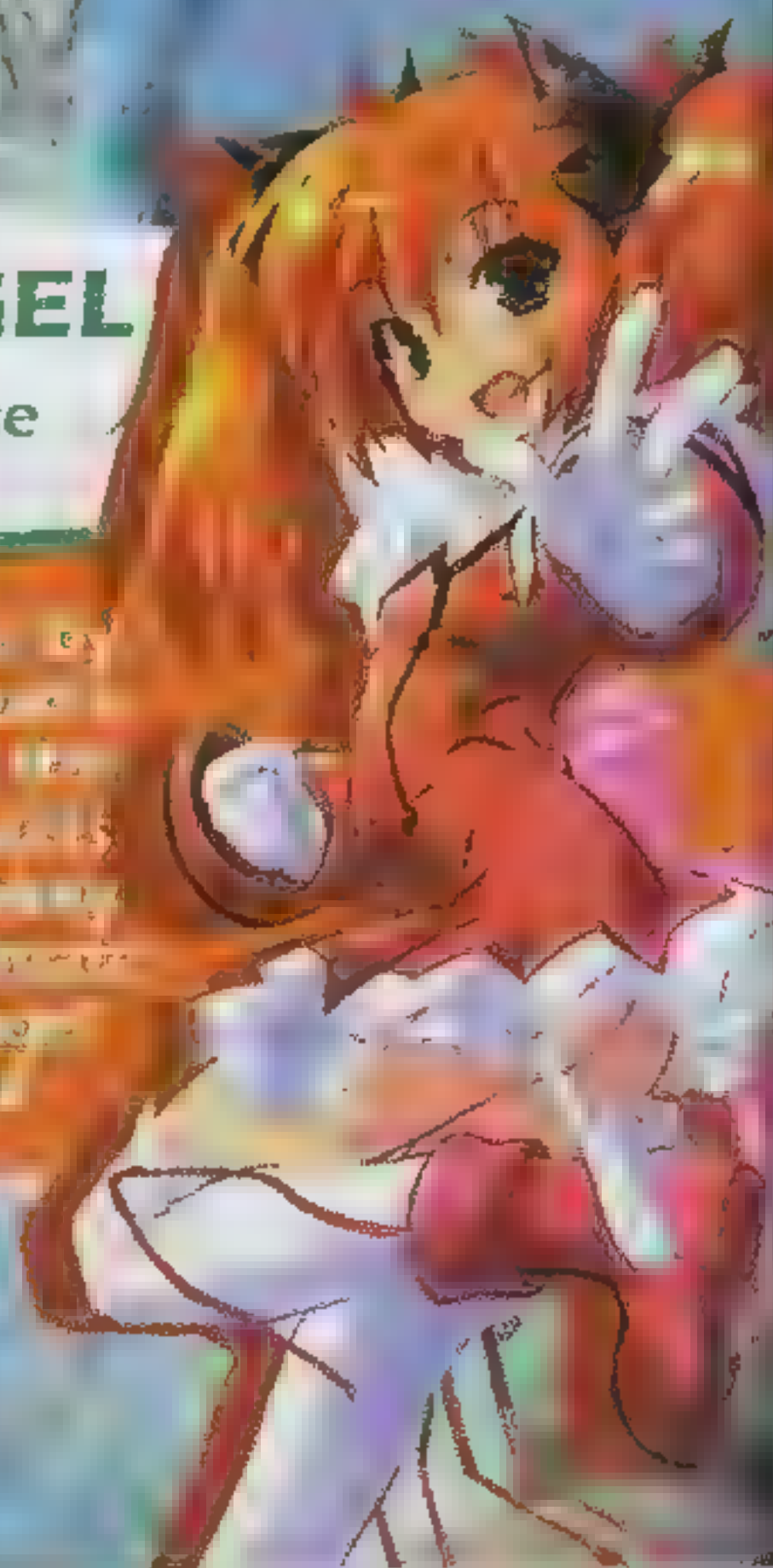
HARUNA

Anime Series: Koreha Zombie Desu Ka?
Year: 2011



HARUKA MINAZUKI – RED ANGEL

Anime Series: Twin Angel: Twinkle Paradise
Year: 2011



CHOCOLAT MEILLEURE

Anime Series: Sugar Sugar Rune
Year: 2004



In a magical world where the witches reside, a competition between two witches is held to see which one of them has the potential to become the next Queen of the Magical World. They must go to the human world and collect hearts from the people. Chocolat Meilleure is a bright and energetic girl. Her mother is the late Witch Cinnamon, who lost against the existing queen, Queen Candy in the competition. She is chosen to become one of the witches who will compete for the next Queen of the Magical World. She obtains a magical wand and a magical pendant; where all the collected hearts will be put. Her spell is "Sugar Sugar Rune! Choco-Runel!"

TSUBOMI HANASAKI – CURE BLOSSOM

Anime Series: Heartcatch! Pretty Cure
Year: 2010

Every person has a heart flower within themselves. This heart flower is connected to the Heart Tree which protects everyone from harm and this tree is protected by Heartcatch Pretty Cures. Tsubomi Hanasaki is a 14-year old girl who loves studying and gardening. Her family owns a flower shop called "Hanasaki Flower Shop". She always dreams of Cure Moonlight, a Pretty Cure who protects the Heart Tree. One day, Cure Moonlight is defeated by Dessert Apostles, the villains who plan to turn the world into dust, and Tsubomi is chosen to be one of the Heartcatch Pretty Cure who will protect the Heart tree from wilting completely by defeating the Dessertarians. They are creatures created by the Dessert Apostles using the people's heart flower. Whenever they defeated a Dessertarian, a heart seed is left and it will help the Heart Tree to be healthy again. She introduces herself "The flower spreading throughout the land, Cure Blossom!" after her transformation.



HIBIKI TACHIBANA

Anime Series: Senki Zessho Symphogear
Year: 2012

ZweiWing: an idol group which has two members namely Tsubasa Kazanari and Kanade Amo but they are not just an idol; they also fight an alien race, known as the Noise that causes havoc and destruction. They use the Symphogear, a powerful armor that can defeat the noises. Hibiki Tachibana is a childish girl who is also a fan of Tsubasa Kazanari. Two years ago, she went to ZweiWing's concert but the noises attacked during the concert. She was almost hit by the attack when Kanade saved her, telling her to not accept death. On her way to the store to buy Tsubasa's latest album, the place is attacked by a noise again. When she is cornered by the noise, she sings what Kanade sung to her when she was about to die and she obtains the Symphogear powers; allowing her to defeat the noises. Her magical power is martial arts; using short bursts of energy and pistons to power her punches.

AMU HINAMORI - AMULET HEART

Anime Series: Shugo Chara!
Year: 2007

All kids have an egg in their soul, the egg of the heart. Amu Hinamori is known to be cool and spicy in their school when actually, she is shy. Getting tired of using her outside character, she wished that she would be reborn as a new. When she woke up, she saw 3 eggs in her bed. There were little creatures inside of it called Shugo Chara and they represent what kind of person you want to be. When a person loses hope or abandons their dream, their eggs become an X-egg. It causes havoc to everyone so it must be cleansed. Amu is the only one who can purify it so she transforms into Amulet Heart together with Ran, her first Shugo Chara she hatched with the help of the Humpty Lock, given by the Guardians. She cleanses the x-egg with her finishing move "Negative Heart Lock On! Open Heart!"

KAEDE MINAMI

Anime Series: Mirmo!
Year: 2001

They say that pouring hot chocolate into a love mug while saying your wish will make your wish come true. Is it true? Well, you never know... It might come true. Kaede Minami is a cheerful and energetic girl who has a crush on her honor student classmate Setsu Yuki. On her way home, she passes by a mysterious shop and she buys a blue mug, believing that it is a love mug. It turns out that this mug belongs to Mirmo, a muglox, and so, they become partners. When the human world is in trouble, she goes into the muglox world to help Mirmo fix it. She obtained a magical item which is the Microphone that lets Mirmo's magic to be more powerful and effective. She chants the magical words "Mirumo Mirumo Kuri Kuri Mu" when using the microphone.

RINGO YUKIMORI - SNOW WHITE

Anime Series: Hime Chen! Otogi Chikku Idol Lilpri
Year: 2010

Fairyland, the place where all known fairy tale stories came from like Snow White and Cinderella, is in big trouble. The kingdoms and the princesses of every fairy tale are disappearing and it has an effect to the human world; its stories are disappearing into existence. Enter Ringo Yukimori, a sweet and adventurous girl who has 7 identical siblings which are sometimes called as 7 dwarfs. Her family runs a bakeshop that sells apple pies. She dreams of becoming an idol, not knowing that this dream would eventually come true. She is chosen to become one of the Super Miracle Idols and is given a gem that lets her transform into Snow White. They need to collect happiness tones by singing so that the Fairyland will be saved from disappearing and to be restored to its former glory. She, together with the other Super Miracle Idols namely Leila and Natsuki named their idol group "Lilpri", in short for Little Princess. She chants the magical words "Pripal, Prepal, Plilin, Pucchi! Hime Chen!" when transforming.

MOMOKO AKATSUTSUMI - HYPER BLOSSOM

Anime Series: Demashita! Powerpuff Girls Z
Year: 2006

Ecological disaster is approaching, the New Jemini from the future, son of Professor Uranium uses Chemical Z, a substance based from the original creation of Professor Uranium, the Chemical Z is making the girls and the boys all over Jemini and hit with people all over Jemini. Momoko Akatsutsumi is a girl who is one of the people who were hit by the white light which allows her to transform into a Powerpuff Girl. Her weapon is a yo-yo and she is represented by a small.

SASAMI IWAKURA

Anime Series: Sasami: Magical Girls Club
Year: 2006

It is believed that humans and witches lived together in harmony in the early times but something bad happened that caused them to separate. Humans lived in the human world while witches lived in the magical world. Sasami Iwakura has magical powers since she was a child but her parents forbid her to use it. She still uses it but only when her parents are not around. Upon entering her fifth grade, her life changes. She meets Washu, her teacher, and his pet Ryo-Ohki. Because of the cooking club, Sasami learns that there are other magical girls also studying in their school. Thus, she becomes friends with them and together they train to use their magical powers in their club called "Magical Girls Club" a.k.a. Cooking Club with the supervision of Washu.

2003

Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch (anime)

Studios: Synergy SP, We've, Actas Inc.



The girls of **Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch** are well-known for their angelic singing voices. Lucia Nanami, a mermaid princess and the safe keeper of the pink pearl, saved a little boy from drowning using the pearl. Years later, she sets foot on land to look for that boy, Kaito, and to retrieve the pearl that she gave him. Lucia, with other mermaid princesses, Hanon and Rina face the minions of Gaito, their enemy-for life. They sing their hearts out to battle them successfully.



Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch is technically not plot-based, but a character-based anime. It introduces different characters every episode with back stories that convey inspiring messages about love and life.

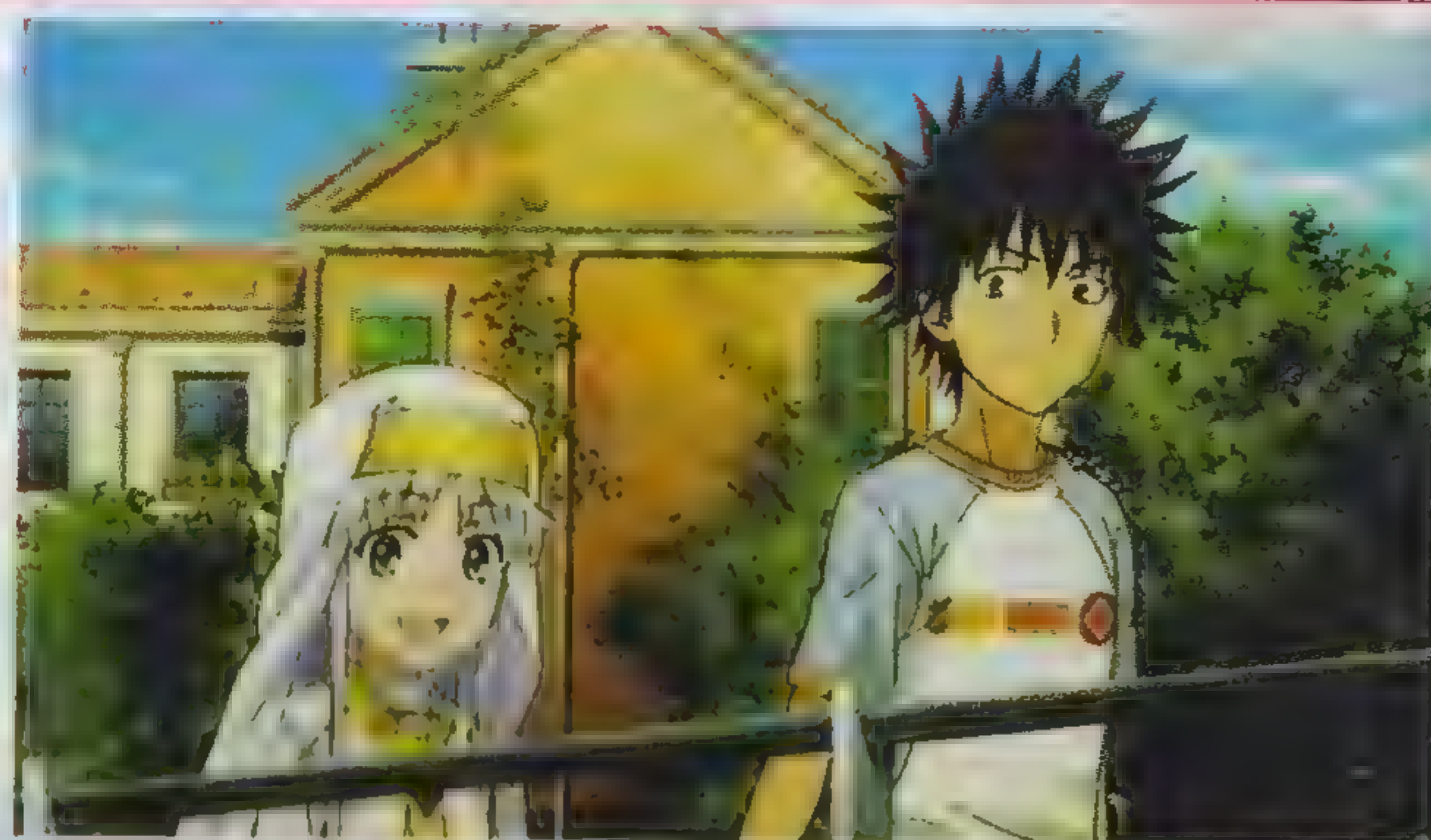
Since the anime is episodic, the songs are also repetitive. It is tedious to some extent, but it is one of the highlights for every episode because it is the point where they defeat their enemies.



Pichi Pichi Pitch is an enjoyable show to watch primarily because of the wacky encounters of the mermaid princesses with different people. Anyone can watch the anime feeling light-hearted until the end.



The late 2000's paved the way for a more sophisticated creation of magical anime. The magical animes that became famous during this time had serious plots and discussed delicate subjects such as science and religion. From the fun-loving girls of Pichi Pichi Pitch, the characters' interests shifted greatly in this type of anime.



2009

Toaru Majutsu no Index

Studio: J.C. Staff

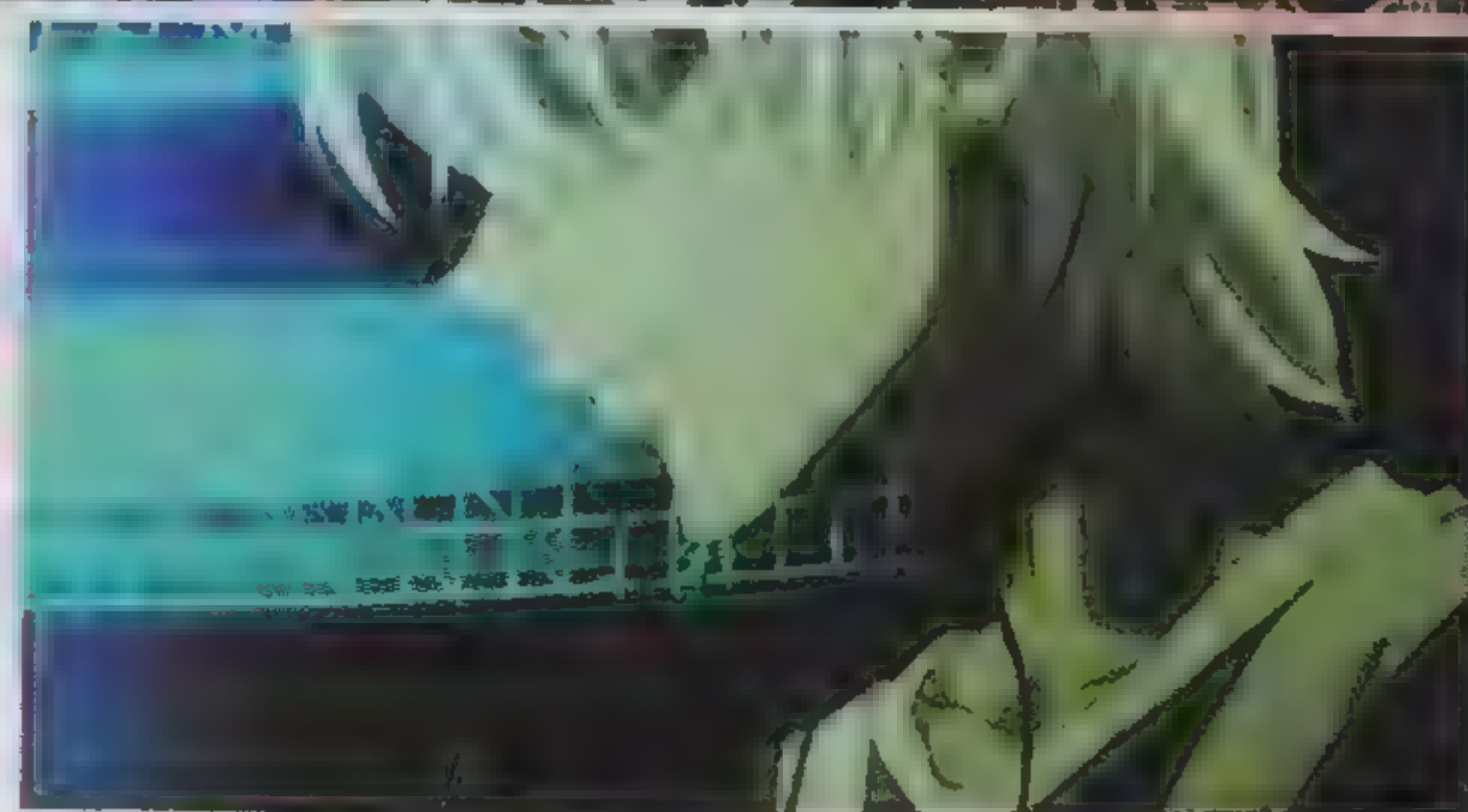
Kamijou Tōma is a high school boy living in **Academy City**, a place where magic and science collides. He co-exists with others ESPers in the city possessing the ability to bend scientific laws. In other words, this is a battle between magic and science.

Religion comes in-between when Kamijou suddenly encounters **Index**, a nun having a superhuman memory that enables her to reflexively memorize a lot about taboo in magic, and anything about magic per se. The evil people in the magic side always attempt to kidnap Index because of her extensive knowledge about the dangers of magic. Hence, Kamijou feels obligated to protect her.



Kamijou is a promising character and protagonist despite his simple and monotonous role. The same goes for Index who is the damsel in distress. Accelerator, considered as the main villain from the science side, has a developed characterization. The varying personalities of each character fit properly to make Toaru Majutsu no Index interesting.

Overall, Toaru Majutsu no Index gives a good impression despite its flaws in character development and lack of a developing plotline. It contains out-of-the-box concepts appealing to viewers, and moments befitting for a shounen anime.



The usual themes in the magical anime genre in this day and age have only circulated from the past with only a few adjustments. For instance, Card Captor Sakura made use of Clow Cards to represent Sakura's power. In this case, Day Break Illusion displays its characters' powers in the form of tarot cards.

2013

Genei wo Kakeru Taiyou

Alt. names: Day Break Illusion, Il Sole Penetra le Illusioni



Akari Taiyou is a schoolgirl who has a knack for tarot card reading and fortune telling. She is working as an apprentice at Akari Fortune Telling Shop in their neighbourhood. During free time in school, she uses tarot cards to tell her classmates' fortunes. However, because of the attention and love she's getting from everyone, a pair of envious eyes watches her from afar. Her classmate and cousin, Fuyuna, becomes extremely jealous of her. Fuyuna then makes a contract with Daemonia tarot, the evil side of the tarot cards, in an

attempt to eliminate Akari. Would Akari be able to read into her own fortune, or will she fall into the trap of familial betrayal?



In Day Break Illusion, a certain creepy aura will find its way through your screen to let you feel the jitters from what is about to happen; and only an overview of what the enemy appears like will show up from time to time. It allows the viewers to predict what is going to happen, just as Akari predicts people's fortunes. It is a unique style in anime which the audience will find interactive. The raspy and stale-colored animation before the fight scenes between the enemy and the protagonist helps a lot in establishing the overall mood in a particular episode.

New characters from tarot cards and other villains are yet to be introduced in this violent but marvelous anime, Genei wo Kakeru Taiyou. We're sure to predict that you all are going to love it.

SPECIAL FEATURE

To Aru Kagaku no Railgun S

Written by James



Since my other cahoots have been fawning over magical girls since page one, I'll be giving you guys a taste of something different, equally pretty, and much more logical – a science girl. Let me introduce to you this certain not-so-little ball of energy named Misaka Mikoto, who happens to be back and is better than ever for the second season: To Aru Kagaku no Railgun S.

Academy City: a city with a population of 2.3 million, most of which are students. 80% of them are espers – people with psychic powers, under the **Brain Development Program**, dedicated to studying them and ranking their powers from **Level 0 to 5** depending on their power's usefulness. Throughout the course of the study, there has only been seven level 5 espers, and ranked third among them is **Misaka Mikoto**. She is the lively and quite hot-headed **electromaster**, who controls electrical currents as well as **magnetism**. Hailed as Tokiwadai Academy's ace, she is always with her schoolmate, roommate, and friend **Shirai Kuroko**: a teleporter who is a member of a peacekeeping organization **Judgment**, who always goes out of her way to make "romantic advancements"; cute computer genius **Uiharu Kazari** who is also a member of **Judgment**, and **Riiko Saten** – a cheerful and optimistic girl despite being a level 0.

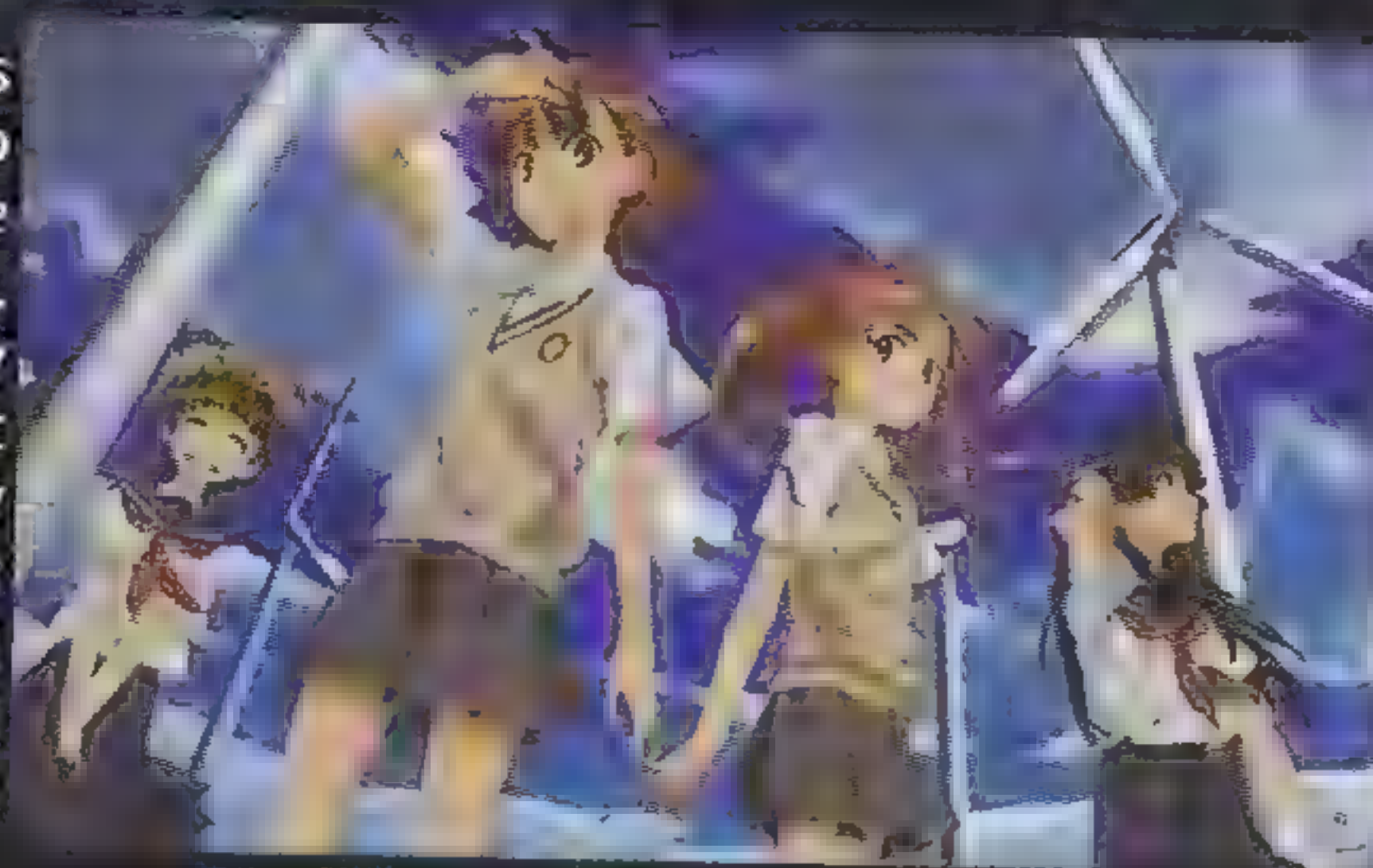
Following the events after season one, just when things are seemingly back to normal, Misaka discovers an underground experiment called **Sisters Project** through a random encounter with a Nagatenjouki Academy student and researcher **Shinobu Nunotaba**. The said project's purpose is to make clones of her. Much to her relief, she finds out that it was discontinued, as it would only yield inferior versions of herself. Until one day, she finds a girl who looks exactly just like her...

While nothing much has changed with the setting as well as the supporting characters, there is a definite shift in the tone of the series to a much darker and more serious territory. This time around, things are much more personal to our Railgun, as conspiracies and human experiments no longer concern just the city or the scientific community, but her very own self. How will she react to this? How will she see the Brain Development Program and Academy City as a whole after the truth has been revealed? Those are the questions Misaka has to answer.

But despite the adjustments made, the ambient themes ever since Season One such as scientific discovery and research, human experimentation, and the relationship between the characters' skills and happiness are still being explored continuously and more in-depth than ever before.

Aside from the introduction of a deeper and personal plot as well as the return of the original characters, we are also introduced to new characters, and among them are three level 5 espers: powerful telepath **Misaki Shokuhou**, **Mugino Shizuru**, and the mysterious **Accelerator**. Not only do these new characters propel the story forward and give it more depth, they also give the viewers a clearer idea on how espers are being ranked by the Brain Development Program – a very important theme in the series. And before anything else, do look forward to To Aru Majutsu no Index's resident luckless hero **Touma Kamijyo** making an appearance once again.

Overall, To Aru Kagaku no Railgun S is a very faithful follow-up to the first season, proving that it's no longer just a side project for To Aru Majutsu no Index – it has very much come into its own show that is full of color, excitement, and a deep storyline.



Meet the New Students of Academy City

Shinobu Nunotaba

A third-year student from Nagatenjouki Academy, she is a child prodigy who supervised the Sisters Project, whose purpose is making clones out of Misaka Mikoto. Through her, Misaka knew about the said project, springing our protagonist into action.

Misaki Shokuhou

A rank 5 level 5 esper who is also studying in Tokiwadai Academy, she is Misaka's rival. Cold and calculating despite her sweet and childish exterior, she is known as "The Queen" – a very fitting name for her, as her clique is the biggest in their school. Her esper power is called **Mental Out**, an ability that can read and tamper with thoughts and memories of a certain number of people in a given area.

Mugino Shizuru

A rank 4 level 5 esper and leader of the underground organization called **ITEM**, she is a crazy psychopath whose craving for battle is only surpassed by her desire to prove everyone that the way espers are ranked according to the usefulness of their powers is biased, going as far as saying that she should be ranked first. Her esper power is called **Meltdown**, allowing her to convert electrons into highly unstable and destructive matter in the form of green-colored beams.

Freide Sevelun

One of the members of **ITEM**, she aids Mugino Shizuru in battle. Though she does not possess any esper powers, she more than makes up for it with her prowess in close-quarters combat, preparation of traps, and concealing weapons.

Rikou Takitsubou

A dull and blunt girl who's a level 4 esper and another member of **ITEM**. She is a valuable member of the team thanks to her esper power called **AIM Stalker**, allowing her to memorize and track an AIM field of other espers, thus revealing their location. But despite such a convenient power, she needs to use a drug called **Body Crystal**, which wears down the body after several uses.

Accelerator

Not much is known about Accelerator, even his real name, aside from the fact that he is the most powerful level 5 esper there is – and is still trying to get his power a level higher.

Magical Girl Lyrical Nanoha

Lyrical Nanoha has two sides of the coin, lighthearted and fun yet rather dark and action-packed. The story offers stunning visual effects and interesting characters. This intricate story of friendship and acceptance is definitely a must-watch for anime fans of all ages and genders.

Characters



Nanoha Takamachi

~Someone to share my feelings... Someone with whom I can split the loneliness and sadness in half... That's it. Now I understand what I want~

Seiyuu: Yukari Tamura
Weapon: Raising Heart

Special Attack: Starlight Breaker

Nanoha is neither rich nor vastly talented; she has never experienced having a close companion. Her life changes when she finds and helps an injured. The ferret, named Yuno, beckons Nanoha and helps her discover the magical ability within her. Nanoha uses it to fight off a monster with a magical weapon called Raising Heart. Hence, she is given her mission: to detect and collect the Jewel Seeds.

Nanoha and Yuno would not be without opposition though. They soon encounter a second opposing magical girl/familiar tandem, namely Fate Testarossa and Arf. The two pairs would continue encountering each other and clashing. Despite the two sides seeing each other as enemies, Nanoha senses loneliness within Fate. In true hero fashion, Nanoha seeks to understand her instead of fighting against her and in due time, they become best friends and partners.

Yuno Scrya

~Hold it in your hands, then close your eyes and clear your mind~

Seiyuu: Kaori Mizuhashi

A battle against a monster marked Yuno's first appearance in the series. The monster manages to get away while Yuno collapsed, transforming himself into a ferret. Using his powers, he calls for help from a nearby magic user, which turned out to be Nanoha. Yuno is the one who gave Nanoha the weapon Raising Heart and concluded that she can use Raising Heart even better than he.

Acting as Nanoha's mentor and strategist, Yuno accompanies her during their search for the Jewel Seeds. Yuno frequently finds himself going up against Arf, Fate's familiar. Later on, more events are revealed about him, which includes being in a family of archaeologists and growing up without his parents. Yuno seems to have a rather interesting relationship with Chrono, as Chrono sometimes teases him about his ferret form and acts bossy around him, but they remain good friends.



Fate Testarossa

~Our story hasn't even begun yet... So to show you the real me... let's put an end to the person I've been until now~

Seiyuu: Nana Mizuki
Weapon: Bardiche

Special Attack: Plasma Zanber Breaker

A mysterious magical girl encountered by Nanoha during her search for the Jewel Seeds, Fate quickly establishes herself as a strong rival, showing superior fighting. Fate carries her own magical device called Bardiche, which usually materializes into an axe and specializes in thunder-based magic.

Behind Fate's cold demeanor is a very troubled life. Suffering from an abusive mother, Fate's only true companion is Arf, her familiar. She forces herself to endure everything and continue on her mission to collect the Jewel Seeds for the sole purpose of pleasing her mother. However, a revelation about her mother broke her fragile emotions and leaves her in depression. With help from Nanoha, Arf, and Bardiche, Fate decides to face her past and identity.



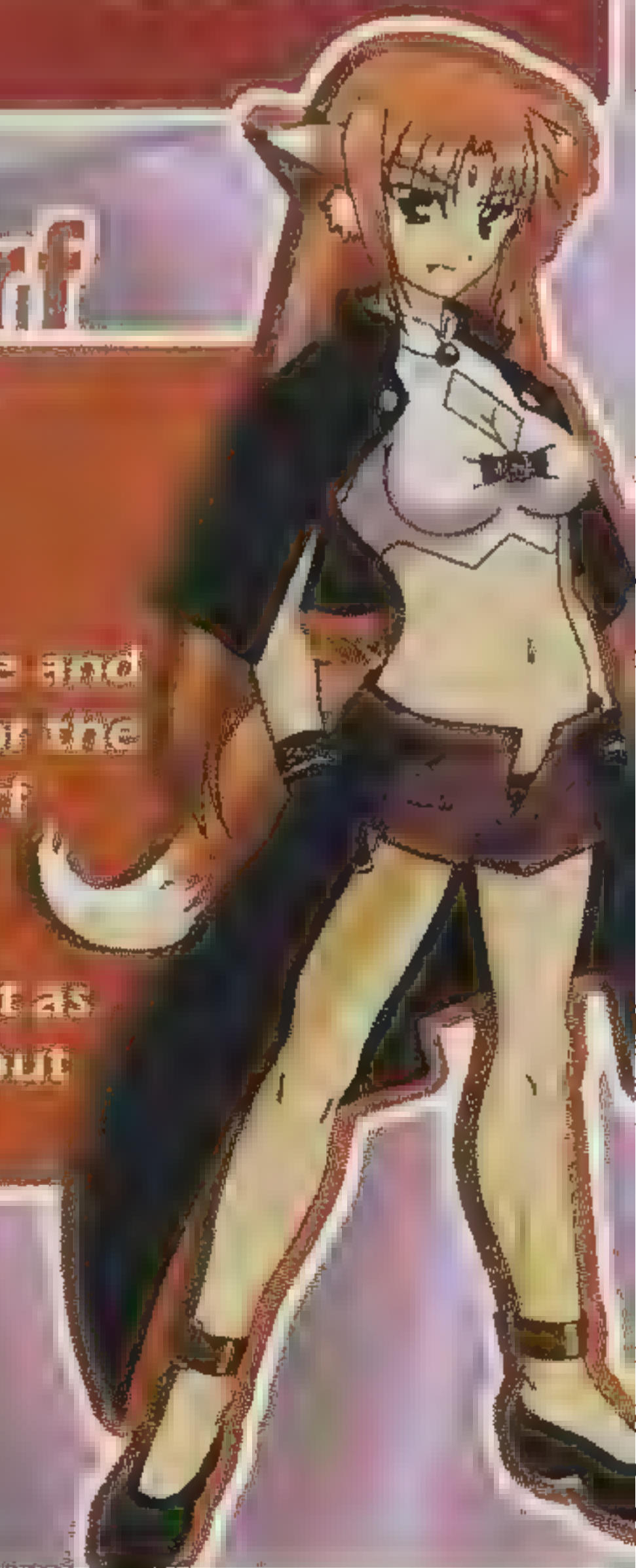
Arf

~Fate, you're my master, and you're the most important girl in the world to me~

Seiyuu: Natsuko Kuwatani

Before the start of the series, Arf was a puppy that contracted a deadly disease and was cast out of her pack. It was during that time that she met Fate. She asked for the puppy's life to be saved, which resulted in Arf being reborn. Out of gratitude, Arf dedicated herself to protecting Fate, becoming her familiar.

Saying that Arf cares for Fate would be an understatement, as she even went as far as to defend Fate when her mother became far too abusive. After the fallout with Fate's mother, Arf returns to Earth and seeks Nanoha's help.

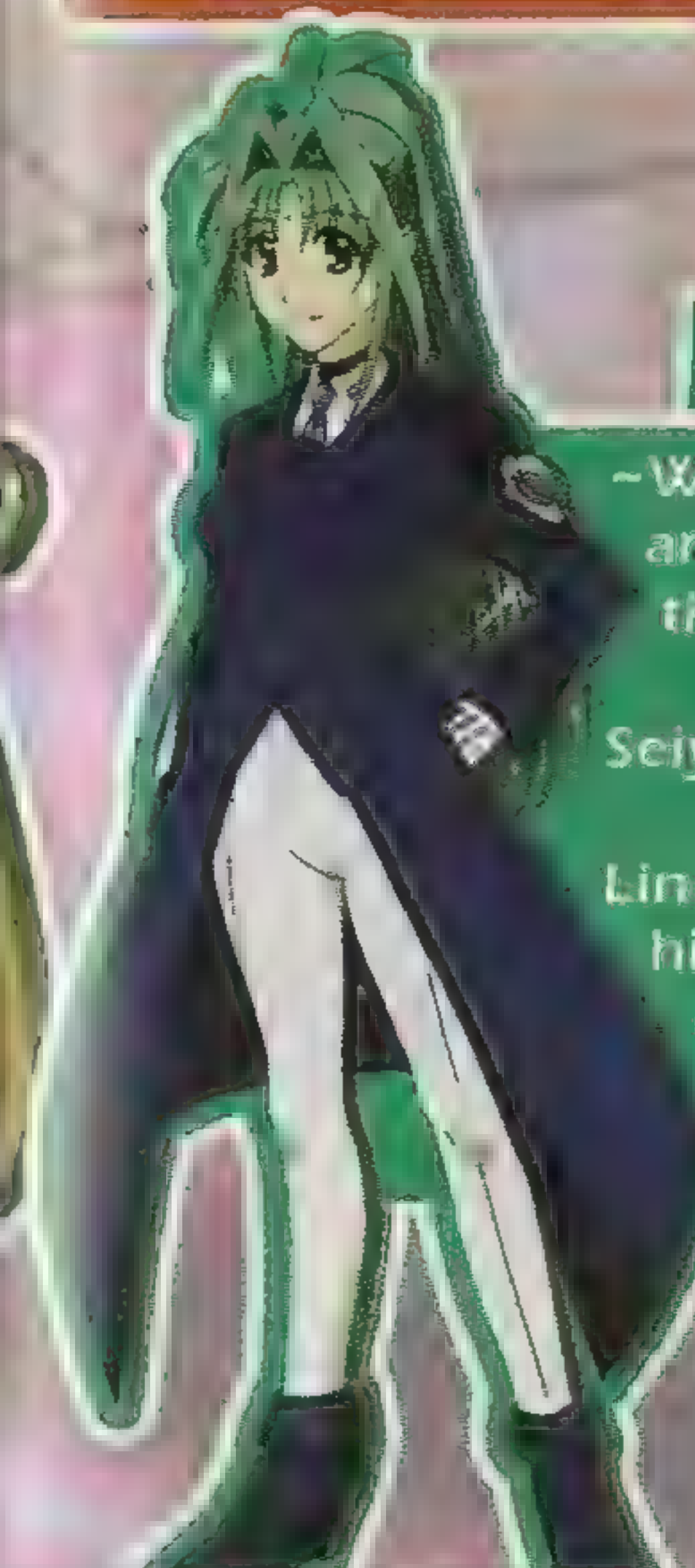


Lindy Haralaown

~When one has science or technology that evolves too far and destroys itself, there are dangerous relics left behind afterwards. We use the term "Lost Logia" for them~

Seiyuu: Aya Hisakawa

Lindy is much more understanding than her son, Chrono, and was the one who sent him to intervene in one of Nanoha and Fate's battles. Lindy is a strong and capable character, both in and out of battle. Her power is in her ability to suppress dimensional magic. At the end of the series, Lindy acts as Fate's guardian, essentially adopting her as a daughter.



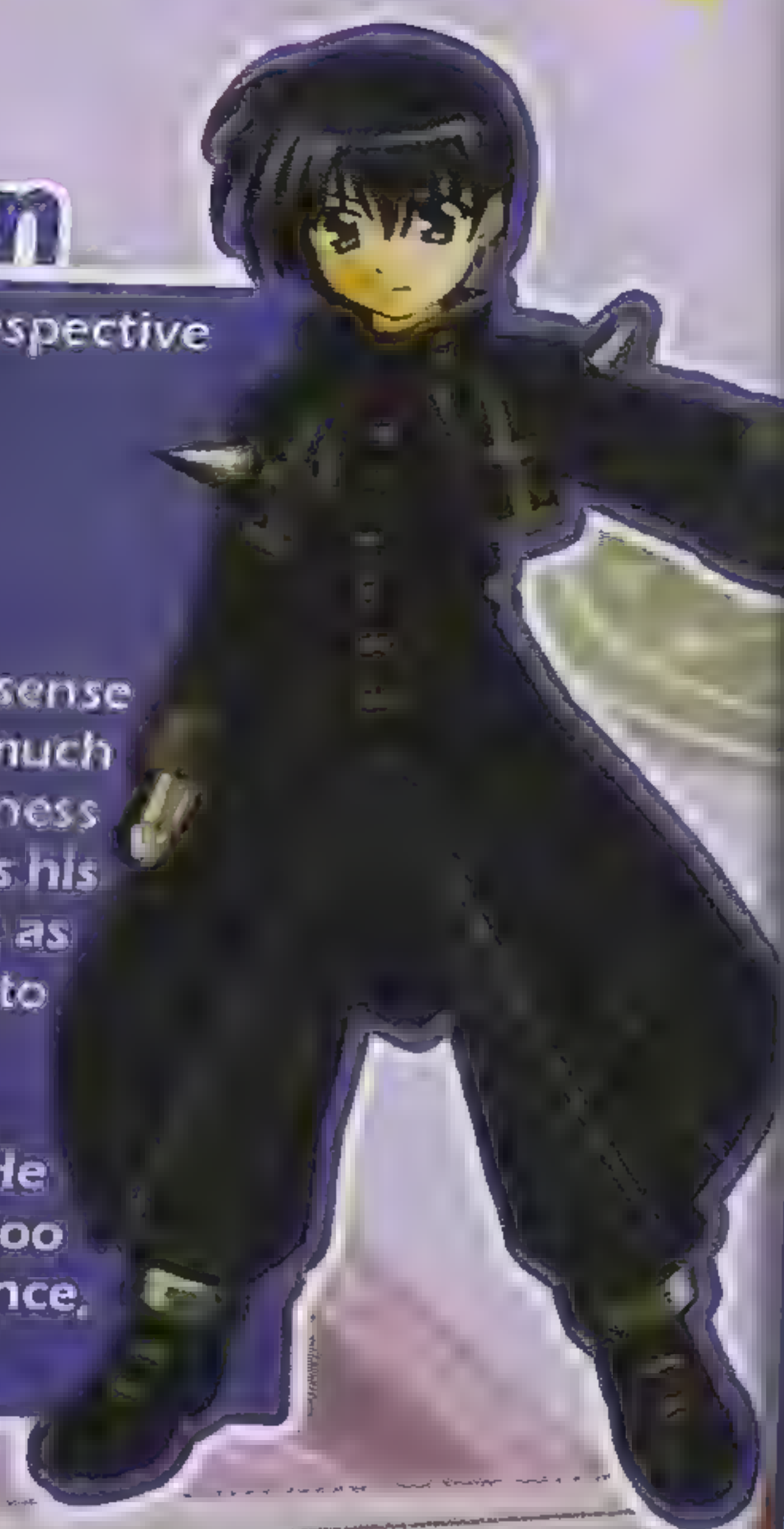
Chrono Harlaown

~Both of you should just forget about all this and go back to your respective worlds~

Seiyuu: Mikako Takahashi
Weapon: S2U

An officer of the TSAB aboard the Arthra, Chrono's no-nonsense personality stand out from his associates, especially his mother, who is much more light-hearted. He takes his job as an officer with extreme seriousness and discipline. As a fellow magic user, he carries the S2U (Song to You) as his magical device, which usually takes the form of a black staff. While not as powerful as Nanoha's or Fate's, his experience and logical approach to things makes Chrono an important ally in missions and battles.

Chrono has a sense of humor albeit his serious and stoic demeanor. He jokes around with Yuno regarding his ferret form, although this was not too obvious due to Chrono's 'normal' personality. Since his first appearance, Chrono became an irreplaceable friend to both Nanoha and Yuno.

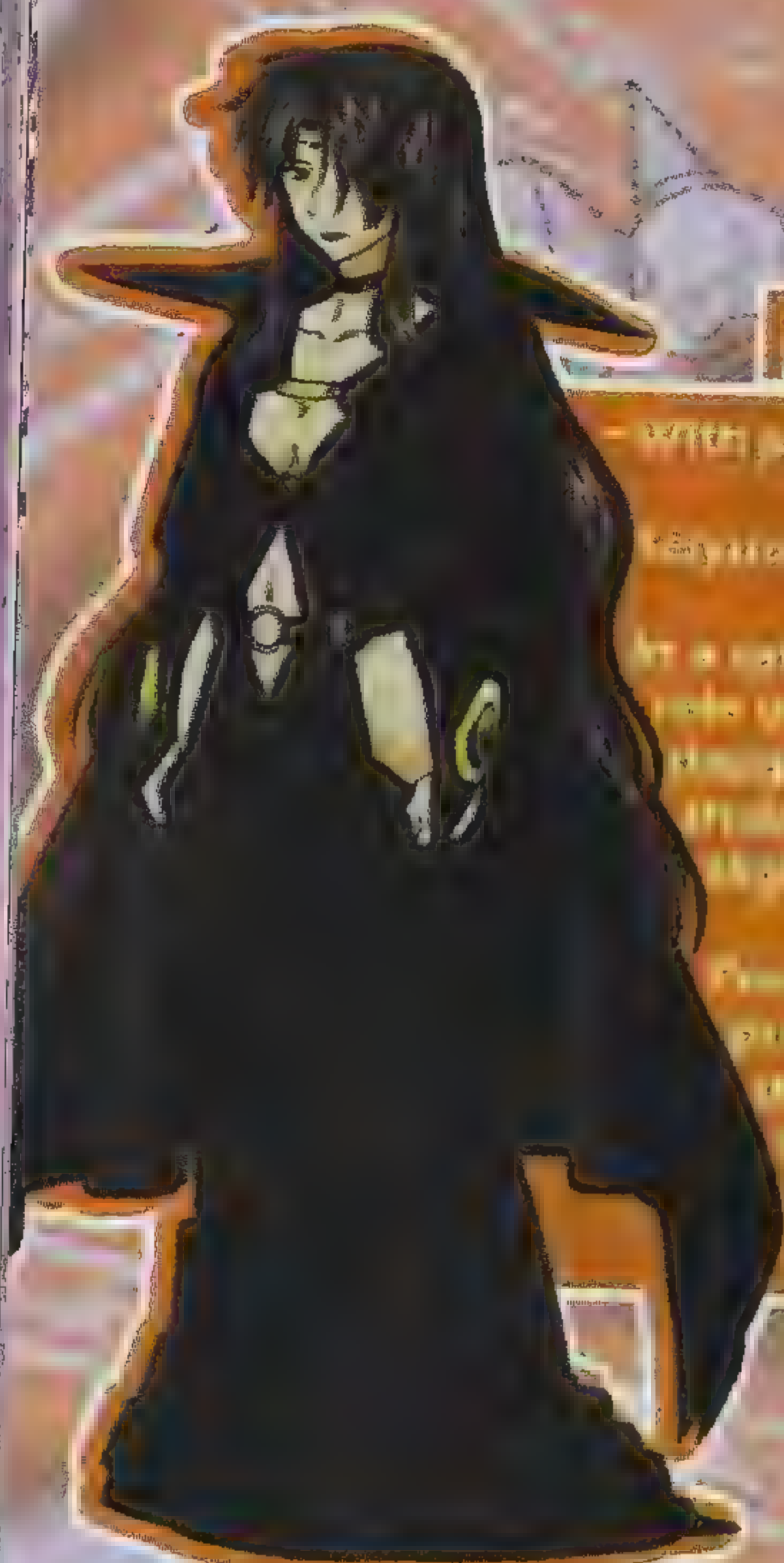


Precia Testarossa

With just these, I can't reach Al-Hazard... I don't have much time left...
Precia Testarossa

In a rather subtle yet effective plot point, Fate Testarossa's mother takes the role of the main villain. Initially having unknown intentions, she orders her daughter to collect the Jewel Seeds. Disposed being Fate's mother, the initial designs of Precia are very nice and is very kind with her for even the slightest reason.

Precia is well trained a dangerous individual by the TSAB. These led to her survival in the Garden of Time. Predictably, the event led to Fate's disappearance. While receiving the first batch of soldiers, Precia activates the Jewel Seeds in an attempt to go to Al-Hazard, a World of powerful magic. Precia would seemingly die in the battle, leaving behind a letter from her to her daughter.



Aimee Mylene S. Ricafort
OTAFAN COSPLAYER OF THE MONTH
Interview by JAMES - OTAKU ASIA

The 24-year old Aimee Ricafort is no stranger to cosplay conventions. Though she only started cosplaying last year, she has already cosplayed a number of characters!

Let us meet her!

The team first met Aimee at ToyCon2013. She was cosplaying Mavis from Fairy Tail. We enjoyed her company and she was nice in answering our interview questions.

Aimee Mylene or Rime graduated under BSIT at Silliman University in Dumaguete. She's now working full time for a telephone company but that doesn't stop her from going to conventions and cosplaying her favorite characters!

She's our Otafan Cosplayer of the month because she represents those who cosplay without making their own costumes. We all started having other people sew our costumes for us. Aimee is the perfect example of a cosplayer newbie!

OT - Otaku Asia
Rime - Aimee

OT: Hello, nice to meet you. So, how did you get into otaku culture?

Rime: I became interested into the otaku culture when I first saw anime on tv during my childhood days.

OT: How did you get to cosplaying then?

Rime: My friend suggested that I should try cosplaying since I can portray my fave charas and also make new otaku friends during events.



OT: How long have you been cosplaying?

Rime: I think about 9 months since I started my first cosplay during Cosmania '12 in October

OT: Do you have a preference over a specific genre?

Rime: Not really. I just love all sorts of genre depending on the awesome plots of the anime

OT: Who's the first character you've ever cosplayed?

Rime: Kafuka from Sayonara Zetsubou Sensei

OT: Who's your favorite character to cosplay as?

Rime: My fave chara to cosplay would be Anaka from Toradora!



OT: Oh cute! What kind of characters do you usually cosplay?

Rime: I usually cosplay chibi characters since it fits my body type

OT: I see, do you like joining cosplay competitions?

Rime: Not that much since I just cosplay for fun and I'm not really good in joining competitions.

We agree cosplaying these days has become very commercialized and there are some who only cosplay to gain prestige rather than enjoying the character themselves

Otaku Asia highly supports those who cosplay for the fun of it because it's literally costume+play! Playing should always be fun!

OT: What can you say about the cosplay community here in PH in this day and age?

Rime: The cosplay community is really amazing here since cosplay became popular among different age groups and there are a lot of events organized every month



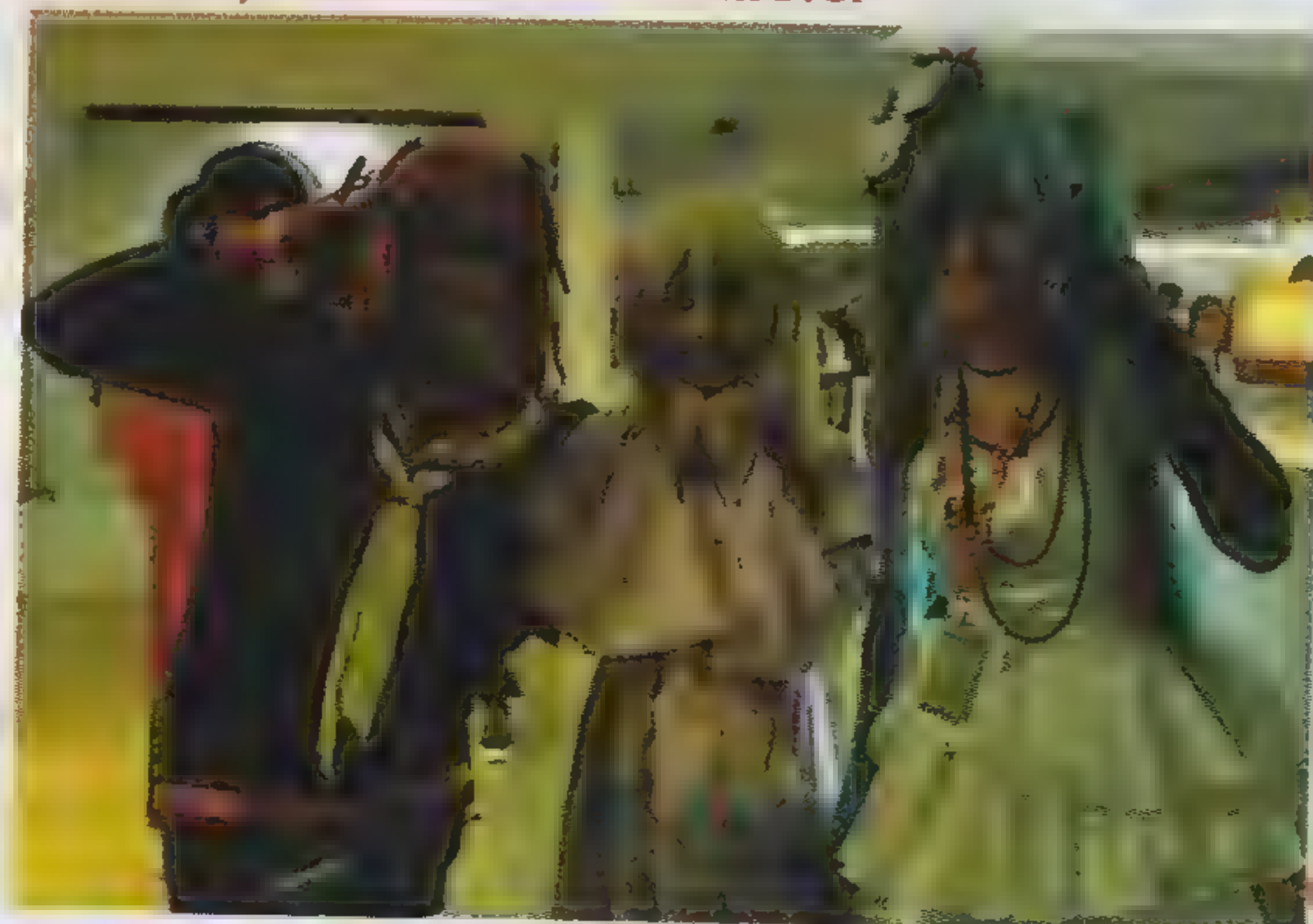
OT: Do you make your own costumes or do you ask for someone else to do it on your behalf?

Rime: I don't make my own costumes since I'm not good in making them. I usually buy 2nd hand costumes or do MTOs (Made to Order) from different tailors.

OT: And how much does MTO cost?

Rime: Usually, it depends on the details and difficulty of the costume. For Seifukus or School Uniform Cos it costs 900-1k+ depending on the tailor's labor fee.

Rime: Some tailors that cater HQ costumes, usually they start at 1.8k-2k+ or more depending on the cos. For me, it's better to buy 2nd cos if your on a tight budget like me. Hehe.



Rime (Mavis) with Rhaine and Dianne of OT

OT: For you, how much has the cosplay community changed ever since you started cosplaying?

Rime: It's become so productive since it has influenced many people to be interested in cosplaying or in otaku culture.

OT: And what do you think makes cosplaying a good hobby?

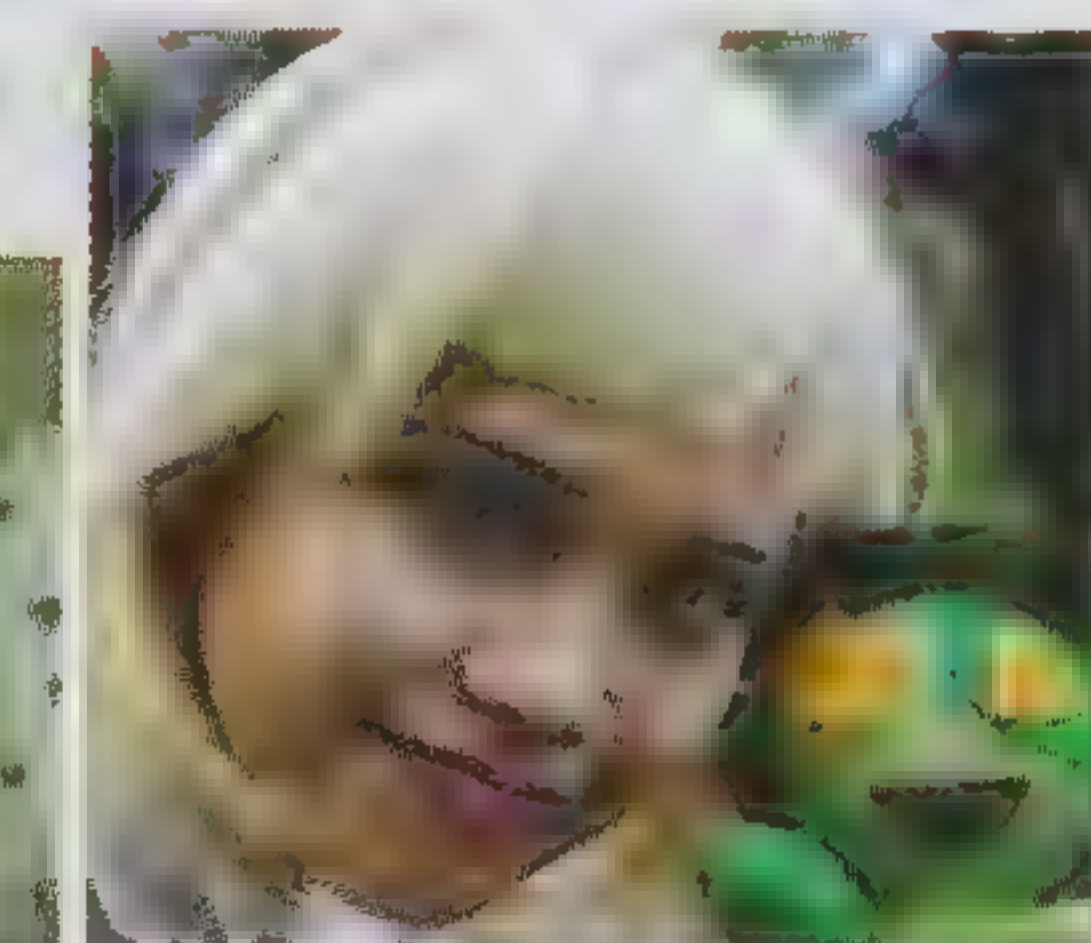
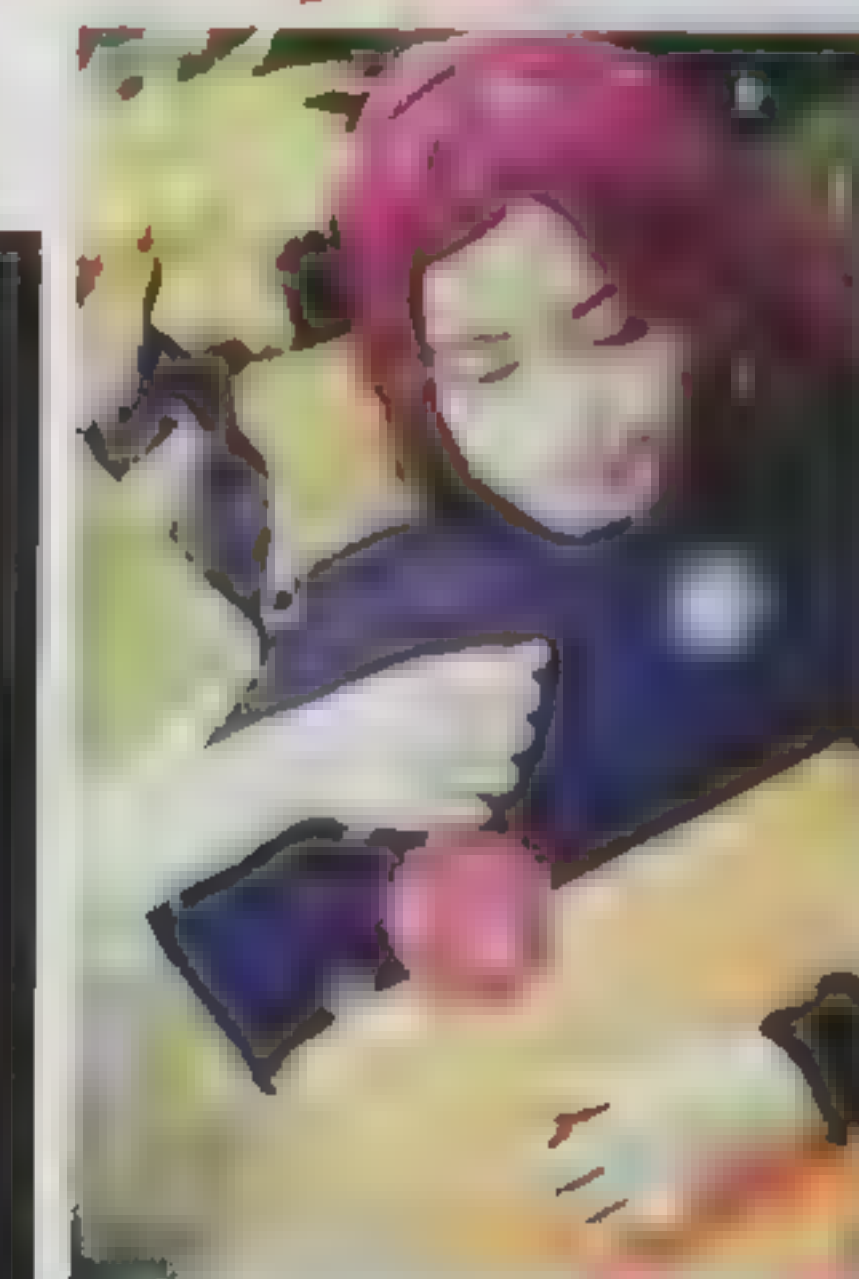
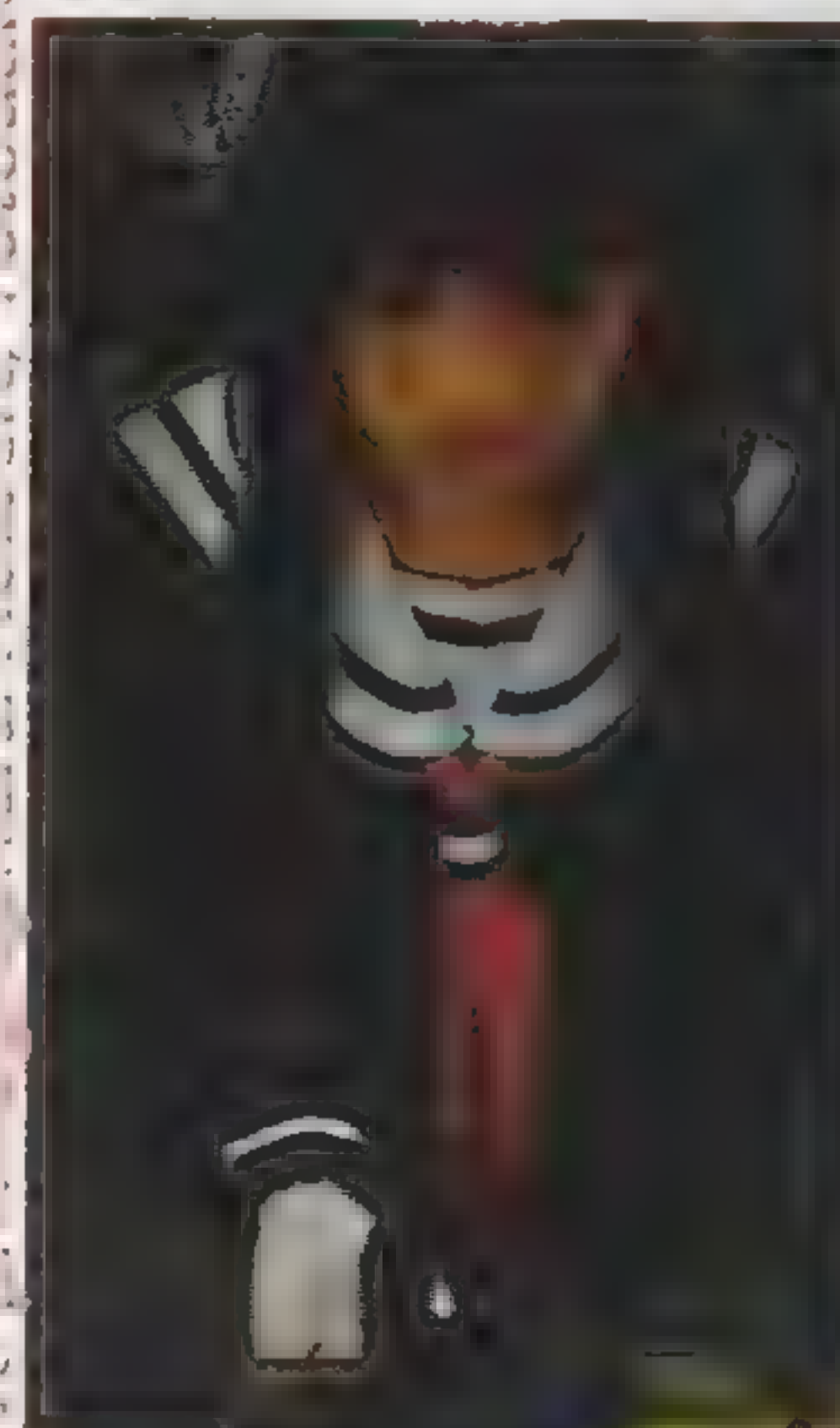
Rime: Cosplaying is a good hobby since it brings out the creativity of an individual and it also improves your self confidence whenever you portray your character well in front of other people.

OT: What skills and lessons have you learned as a cosplayer?

Rime: I've learned to do my own make up, make different accessories/props and improve my sewing skills whenever I modify some of my costumes

OT: How long do you think you'll be a cosplayer?

Rime: Probably, about 5-7 years.



OT: How do you balance your time for both work and

cosplaying?

Rime: I usually devote myself in cosplaying only during weekends and I do my work during weekdays in order for me to have a stable schedule for both things I like.

OT: Do your family, friends, and co-workers know you're a cosplayer and what do they think about it?

Rime: Not everyone knows I'm a cosplayer. My family and friends thinks it's really amazing to be a cosplayer based from the photos they've seen during some of photoshoots I've attended.

OT: Given a chance, would you like to be an idol?

Rime: Yes, I'm inspired to become an idol because of my fave cosplayer - Kaname-sama.

OT: As a kawaii/chibi cosplayer, can you give a few pointers to those who want to be like you?

Rime: For chibi cosers out there, just maintain that cuteness factor but with regards to the character's personality like being a tsundere for example. Hehe. Just have fun cosplaying and don't mind the height issues coz that's what makes us cute. Hehe XD

OT: One last question – do you have anything to say to the otaku and cosplay community here in the Philippines?

Rime: I would just like to say that I'm so overjoyed that the otaku and cosplay community here in the Philippines have improved a lot and many people have been accepted the otaku culture quite well compared to the past years.

New or veteran to the craft, make your own costume or have it made, it matters not. If you want to cosplay, do so in your own time and pace. For as long as you enjoy, it's a-ok!

Thank you, Aimee-chan!

A question for the boys: Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a girl?

Seven Beauties, One Guy, Unlimited Kisses

Yamada and the Seven Witches by Miki Yoshikawa



In Suzaku High, a certain problem child is feared by all students: the second year student Ryuu Yamada. He's always late for school, has low grades and falls asleep in class. Meanwhile, Urara Shiraishi from his class is Suzaku High's brightest student. Then one day, they swap!

They find out that their body swaps when they kiss. The next day, Ryuu in Urara's body accepts Urara's premeditated kiss while in Ryuu's body and the kiss triggers another body swap, calling both of them to return to their original bodies. After investigating the mystery about their body swapping, it's revealed that Urara is a witch with the power of swapping bodies. Ryuu is a duplicate of a witch's magic and there are six more girls like Urara who has a special ability.

Will they discover the reason behind the existence of seven witches in Suzaku High?

Yamada and the Seven Witches

is an on-going romantic comedy manga by Miki Yoshikawa in Weekly Shounen Jump. The first chapter was published in February 2012 and currently has 65 chapters.

The situational comedy, romance, fantasy, and lots of kissing scenes make Yamada and the Seven Witches interesting. Characters grow and develop slowly but steadily every chapter as they dig deeper into the mystery of the seven witches of Suzaku High. Aside from the manga, the author, Miki Yoshikawa herself is interested for the reason that female mangaka writing a romantic comedy manga filled with borderline fan service that's aimed for aged 15+ are very rare.

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPERNATURAL STUDIES CLUB

The supernatural studies club is only a club name, but its real activity is to learn more about the seven witches of Suzaku High. The members of this club are the only ones that know the existence of the witches and as they resolve the mystery behind it, they try not to make it become public knowledge as much as they can.

Ryuu Yamada – By kissing a witch, he can duplicate her power and use it on normal people. However, his copy of the witch's power won't be effective against another witch.

Urara Shiraishi – is the president of the supernatural studies club and one of the seven witches of Suzaku High. Urara is the brightest student the school ever had. While she's popular with the majority of the male students in the school, Urara is bullied by the girls. As a result, she doesn't have anyone she can call a "friend"; until Ryuu.

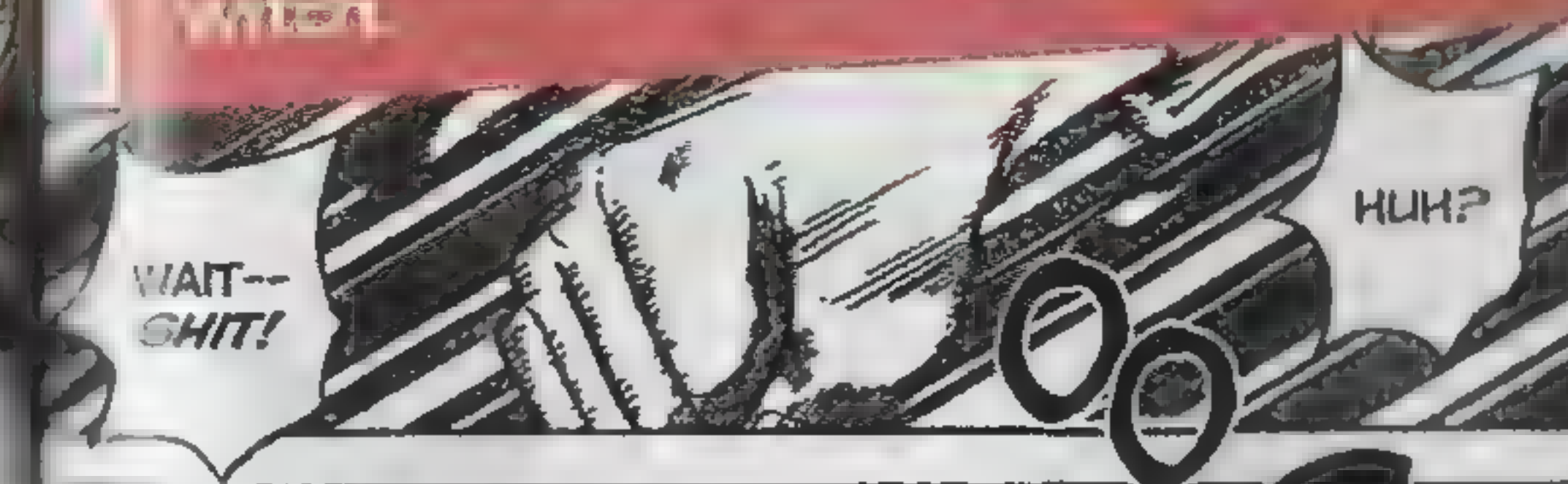
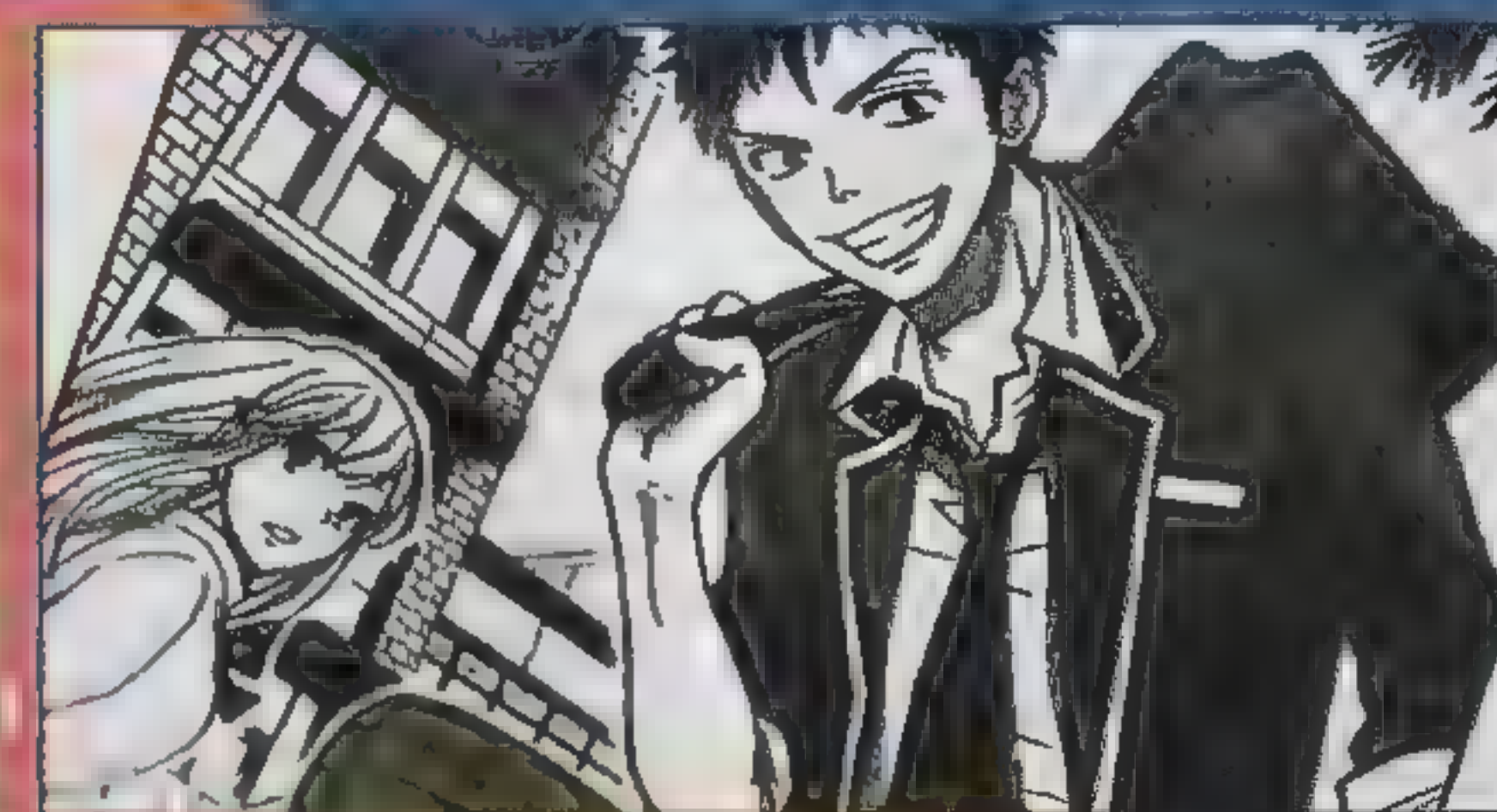
As a witch, her power is "body exchange". When she kisses a person, Urara and that person will instantly switch bodies. The only limitation is that her power is ineffective against witches or when used against a normal person who is already under the influence of another witch's power.

Toranosuke Miyasaka – A member of the student council and vice-president of the supernatural studies club.

When they were studying the logic behind their body swapping, Toranosuke proposes to have Ryuu kiss him to see if they will swap bodies or not. Since the theory is proven correct, he is now willing to kiss Ryuu anytime.

Miyabi Itou – She wants to join the supernatural studies club because she is into supernatural phenomena like UFO sightings and mysterious artifacts. She later learns the club's secret and swears not to tell anyone about it.

Like Toranosuke, Miyabi is more than willing to kiss anyone in the club, especially Ryuu.



Mahou Shoujo of the End

by Kentarou Satou

In games and movies, a zombie apocalypse is often caused by bioterrorism, or through necromancy in the medieval setting. Who would've guessed that the zombie apocalypse this time isn't caused by a virus, a parasitic organism or a necromancer reanimating corpses?

The cause of this madness is none other than the **Mahou Shoujo**.

Mahou Shoujo of the End is an on-going mystery horror manga series by Kentaro Satou. It's serialized in Bessatsu Shounen Champion that started in June 2012 with a total of 10 chapters as of April 2013.

Kii Kogami is an ordinary high school student who unwittingly finds himself in a bizarre event involving 'Magical girls'. As he idly looks out of the window near his seat, Kii witnesses a teacher being killed by something that has the appearance of a little girl with a tick, causing the teacher's head to explode. Convincing himself that everything he saw was just a dream, he leaves the classroom and goes to the restroom to get his act

The moment he returned from the restroom, his friends and classmates are being massacred by the same little girl who repeatedly utters the word "magical." Kii, together with his childhood friend Tsukune Fukumoto, witnesses the resurrection of their dead classmates as a murderous horde of zombies saying the word "magical," just like the little girl. Now Kii and Tsukune—along with other survivors from the academy, must survive and find out what has become of their world that's being overrun by both zombies and magical girls.



The magical girls in the story are used as an evil entity that will push mankind to the brink of extinction instead of the usual 'fighting for justice' theme. The art also did a great job pulling off an eerie atmosphere expected in a horror manga, as well as scenes that contains blood and gore.

Overall, Mahou Shoujo of the End is an enjoyable manga with unpredictable plots that will keep you at the edge of your seats.

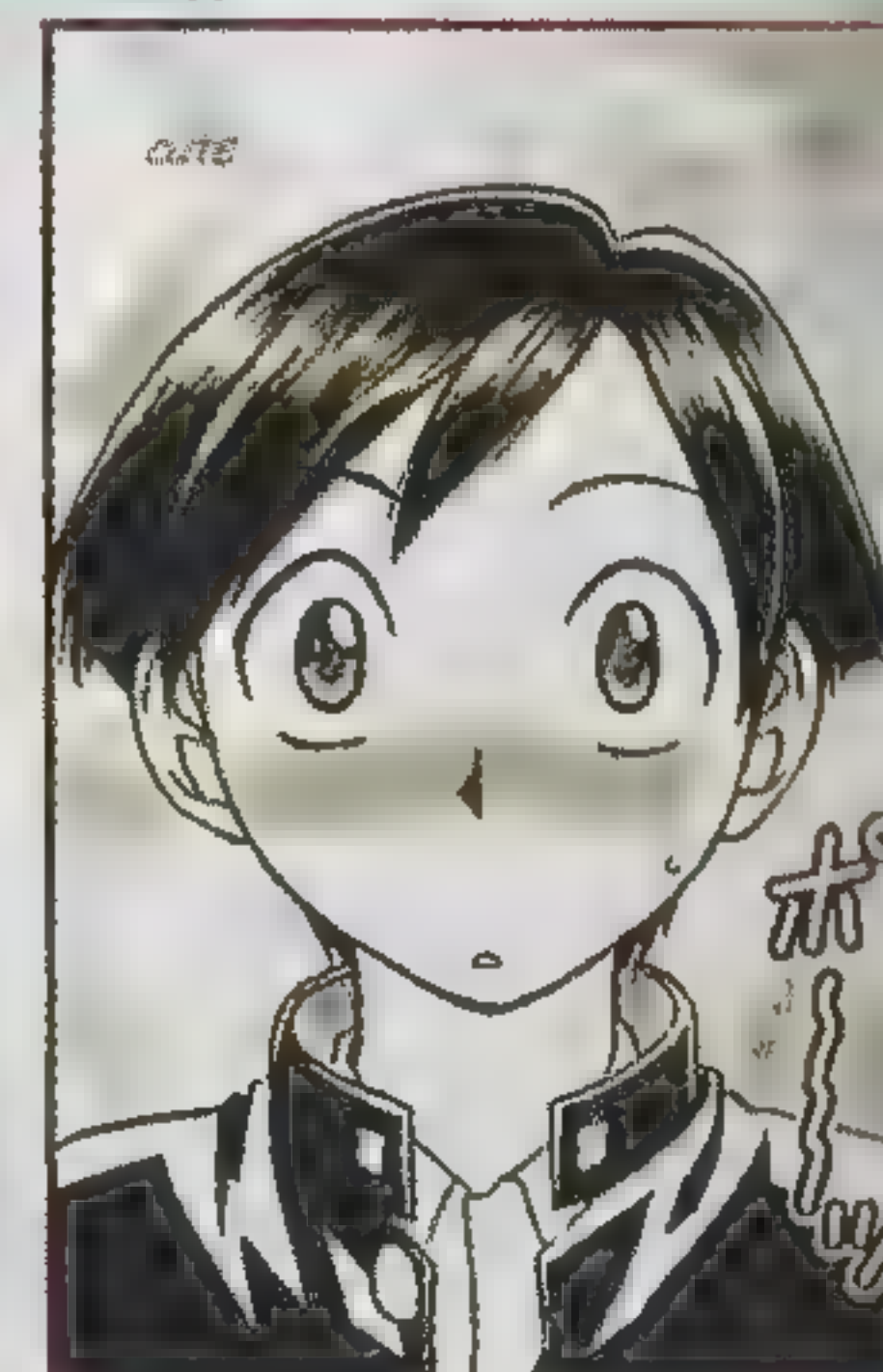


What will you do if you suddenly have the ability to travel through time? Will you use your power to go back in time to undo your past mistakes? Will you use it to know the future combination number of a winning lottery ticket? Or will you use it to meet your future husband/wife and child and ask them what kind of life you have in the future?

My daughter from the future can't be a magical girl!

Mahou no Iroha! is a romantic-comedy manga series Kazuro Inoue serialized in Shounen Sunday Super. The series ran from September 2009 to March 2011 with 17 chapters overall.

Not good with sports, unpopular with the girls and not very smart, Naoki Rikda's uneventful middle school life is centered on video games and erotic books. All of a sudden, a girl named Iroha claims that she is his daughter 20 years in the future. Iroha came from a future where magic finally exists and her mission is to prevent Naoki from unravelling the secrets of magic and becoming the tyrant that will eventually cost him his life.



It doesn't feel like it had an abrupt ending. Mahou no Iroha kept a decent pace for both plot and character development. Although it is intended to be a magical girl story, it somehow ended up being a sci-fi manga.

If you are looking for a manga series that is short but interesting at the same time, give Mahou no Iroha a try. It's worth it!



PERKS OF BEING A CROSSPLAYER

Ever wonder what it would be like if you get to play as your favorite anime character but worried people might find you funny because it's opposite your sex? (By sex, we mean biological makeup, not gender preference.)

Why fret? If you're a girl and you want to cosplay as Naruto, or if you're a guy and you want to cosplay as Sakura, ladies and gents, that's not just cosplaying, but crossplaying!

Crossplay or Crossdressing Cosplay is simply cosplaying a character of the opposite sex. For others it may sound weird to cosplay what you're not, but it's actually a very rewarding experience because it's a challenge to dress up and act something different from what we have been used to.

Is crossplaying also crossdressing?

You may ask that question because of how they share the idea of dressing up the way the other sex does, but the big difference is that **most crossdressers do it regularly in their real lives while crossplayers do it only for fun as what "costume play" suggests.**

Also, some cosplayers may look as if they are crossdressing, but this may only be because that's what their character requires. If for example, a male is to cosplay Sohma Yuki of Fruits Basket in a dress, just like how Yuki was asked to crossdress in the manga and animé, then this is not crossplaying. The main idea of crossplay is for the cosplayer's sex to be the opposite of the character being cosplayed.

To answer that question, crossplaying is cosplaying a character with the gender opposite your own while crossdressing is wearing female clothes because of gender preference.



1 Choose Your Character

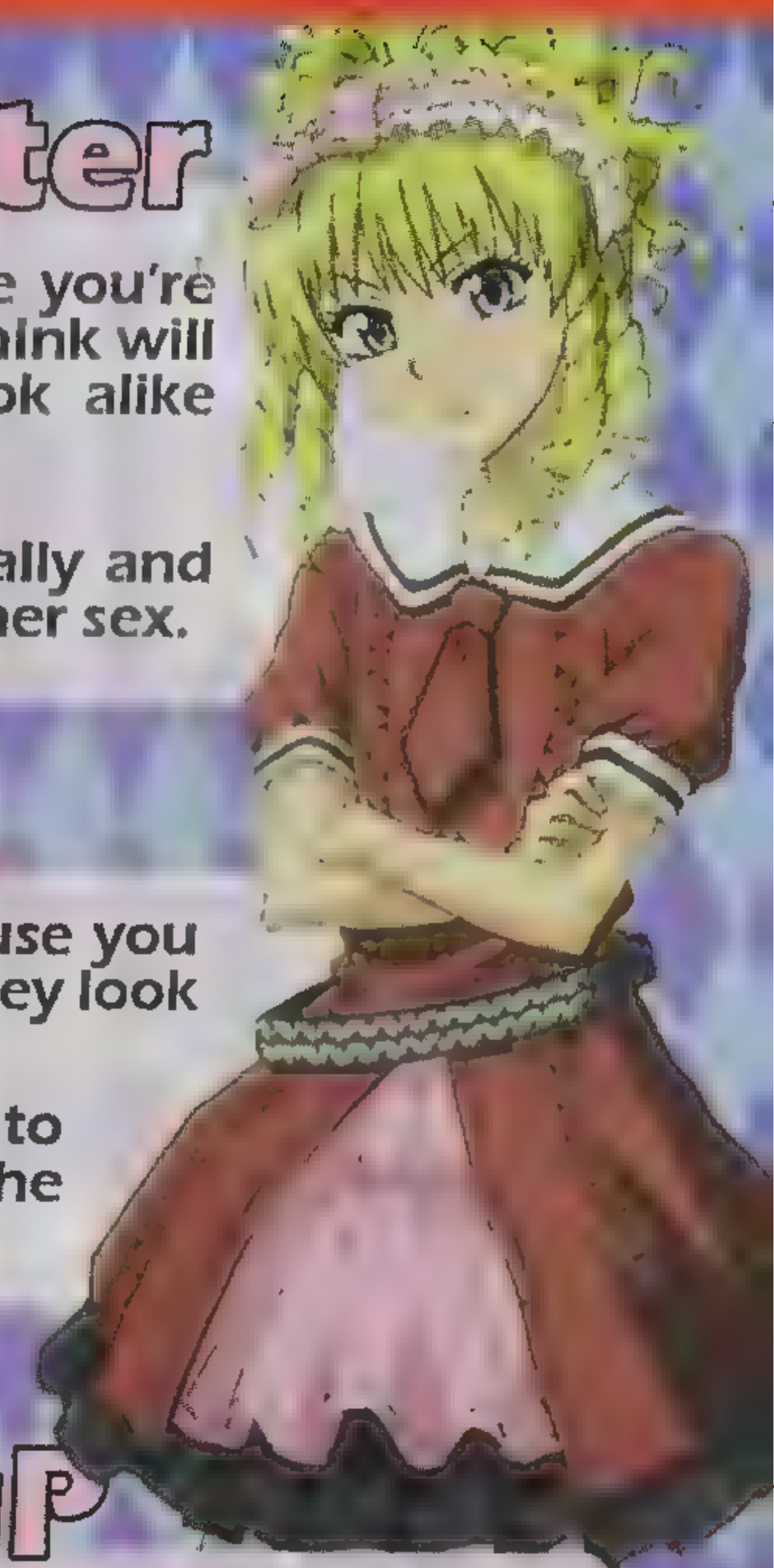
This character should be from the opposite sex and one you're really interested in cosplaying as. Choose one that you think will suit your body type, but don't worry if you don't look alike because makeup will do the rest of the job for you.

Part of this process is for you to prepare yourself mentally and physically. Ready yourself to be/act as someone of the other sex.

2 Study. Study. Study.

This is the most important part of your preparation because you will study your character. This not only includes the way they look but also the way they speak and act.

To crossplay, or to cosplay in general, is role-playing and to make it really effective, you have to live as if you are the character yourself.



3 Costume and makeup

Costume is the spotlight of any cosplay activity. Acting and projecting your character is not the only factor in excellent cosplay. You would also want your costume to be an exact replica of that of your character's. Likewise, make sure that your costume allows you to move freely.

Makeup lets you achieve what you still lack to look even more exactly like your character. Don't lose hope if you do not think you have the makeup skills you need, you can look up help online.

4 CrossPlay showtime!

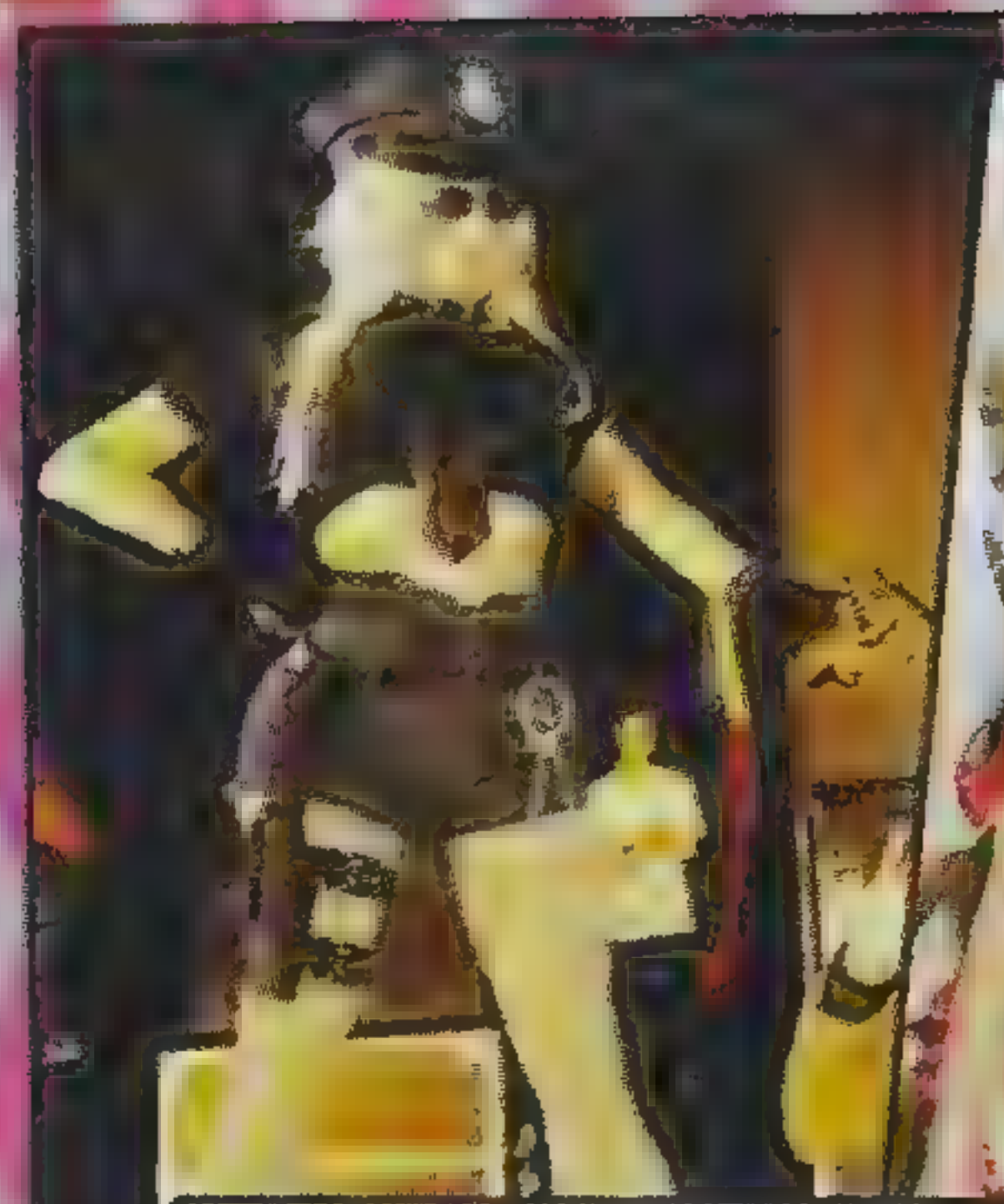
Time for you to showcase everything you prepared to be your character! Never forget to have fun!

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!!

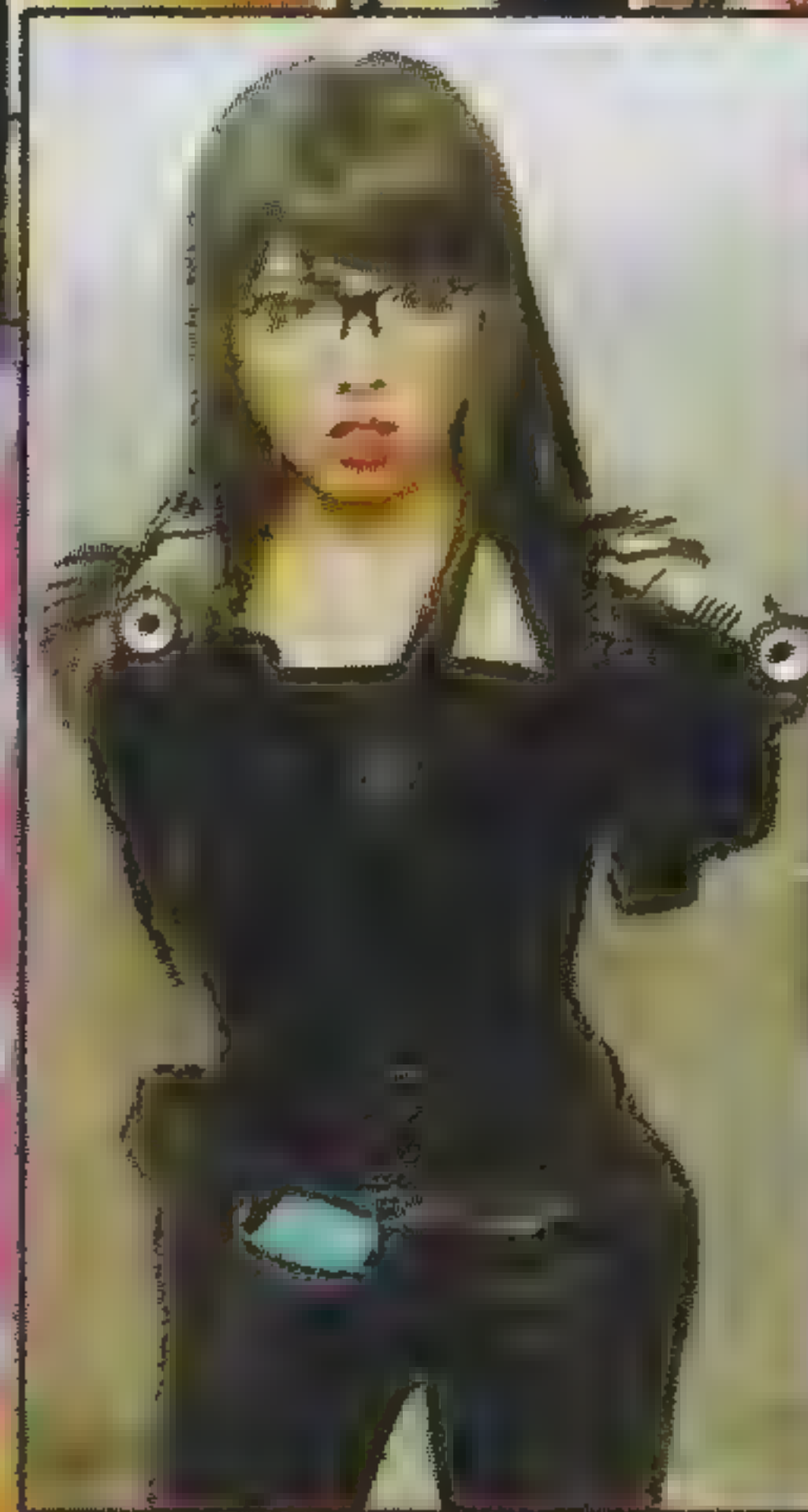
The challenge now is to use your creativity. You will definitely get a lot of claps, and "ohs" and "ahs" if more people are unable to recognize your real gender because it proves that you achieved your goal.

Take pride not only in getting to "be" your favorite character but also proving to others that difference in gender will not stop you from showing your love and dedication for cosplay and for anime!





Jiruel
Daiyuki



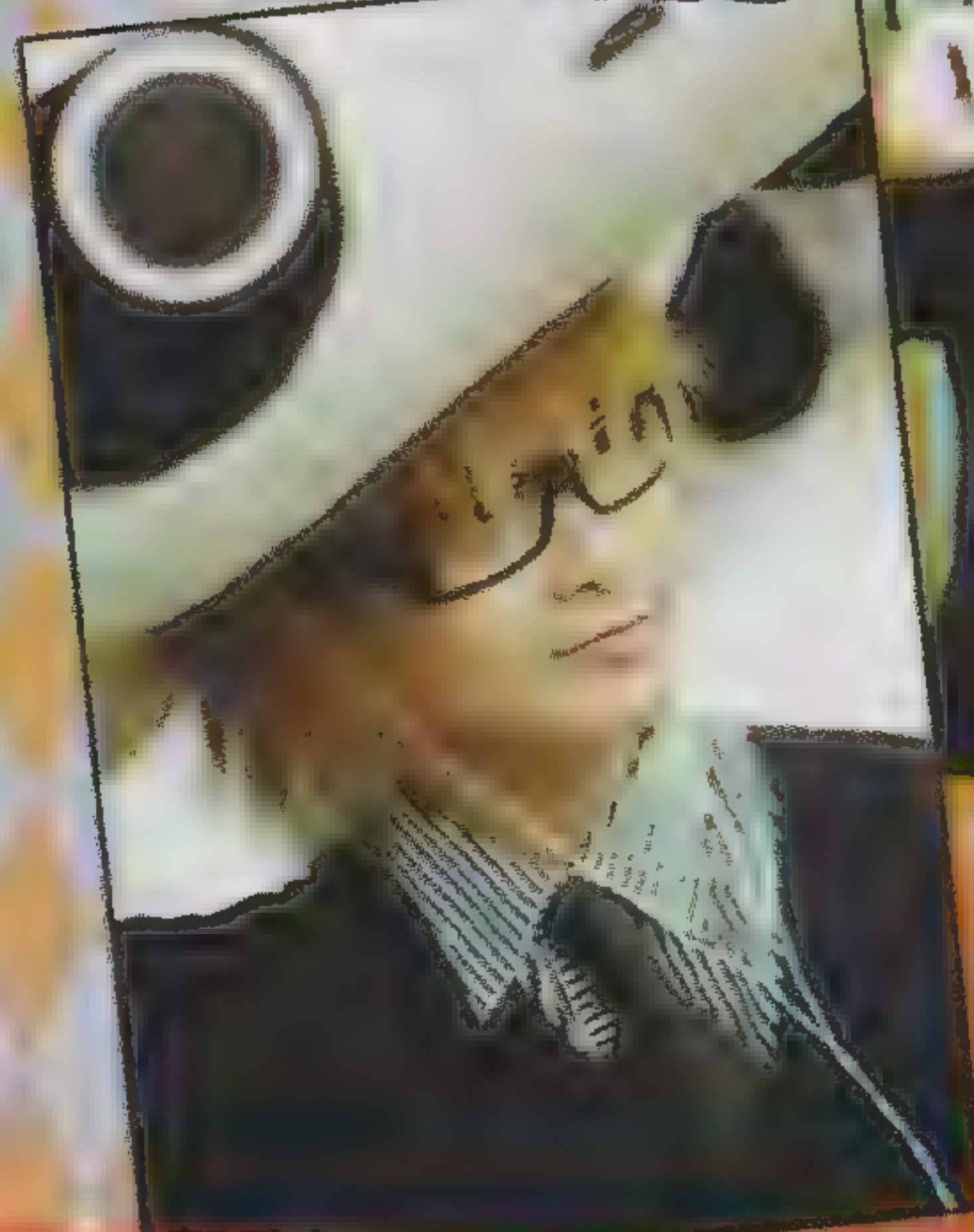
Ian
Quinto

TRAPS
Traps everywhere



GM Yani and GM Almadel of
OtakuAsia with Ian Quinto. 3 traps in
one photo!

Buzz
Panda



Even OtakuAsia
staff members
GM Almadel and
GM Yani did
crossplaying last
Oh No! Manga
Cosplay Camp!

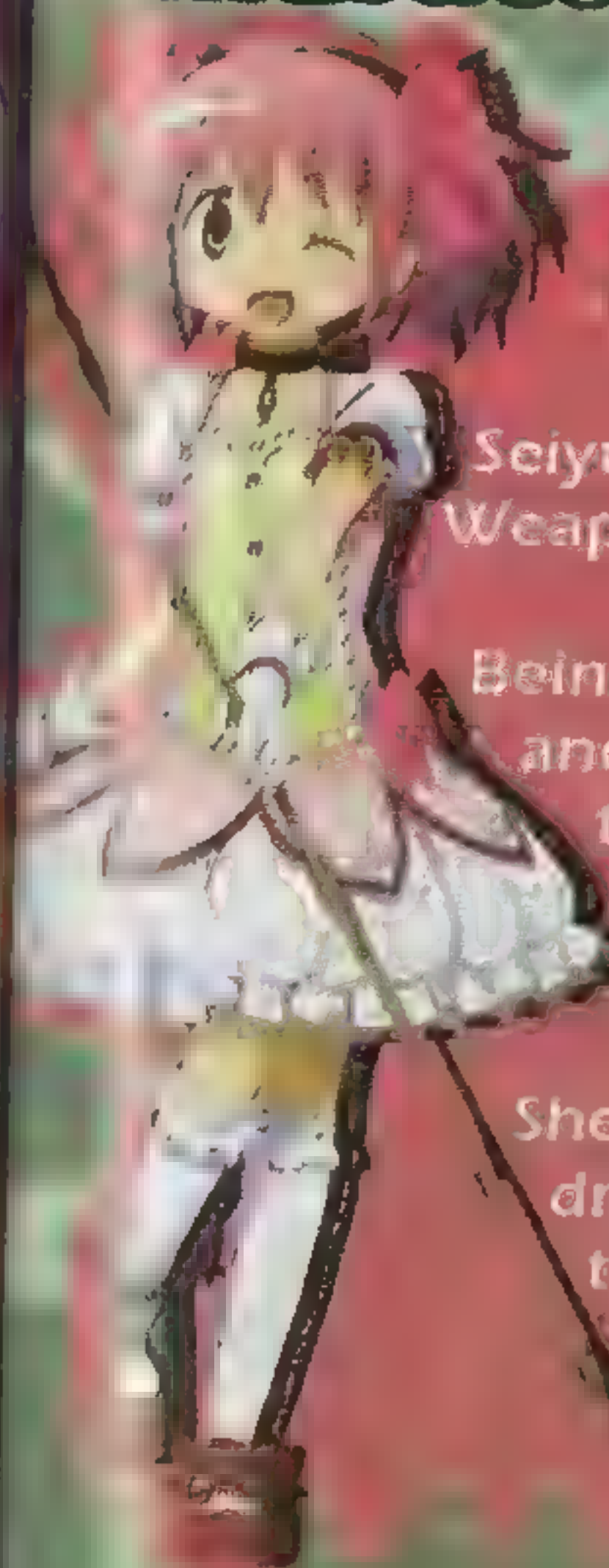


Puella Magi Madoka Magica

We're all too used to stories where the power of friendship and love manages to overcome everything, especially in a magical girl show. But what if the very wish and power you aspire for causes immense regret later on? What if having these powers actually could turn a person into the very thing they hate?

That's exactly what Puella Magi Madoka Magica is all about. The show removes a lot of the realistic conditions and presents a realistic outlook on what being a magical girl is all about. Don't be fooled by its childish appearance; Madoka Magica can in fact be very dark, ominous, and violent. Yet this show presents some of the best writing as it takes the viewers through an incredible psychological journey into the consequences and effects of our crucial decisions in life.

Characters



Madoka Kaname

Seiyuu: Aoi Yuuki
Weapon: Bow

Special Ability: Soul Gem Cleansing

Being a cheerful and innocent girl, Madoka had everything she needed: a loving family and great friends. Despite her low self-esteem, she continued living her life bringing joy to those around her. All changes when one night, she dreams about a magical girl fighting a creature within a ruined city. The dream ends with a cute cat-like creature offering her a wish and the ability to become a magical girl.

She is introduced to Mami Tomoe, a magical girl, and Kyubey, the cat-like creature in her dream. Then, the girl Madoka encountered in her dream enrolls in her school as a transfer student. In a flash, Madoka is caught in the thick of things; she sees the consequences of becoming a magical girl, she starts drifting away from her best friend, and discovers Homura's desire.

Sayaka Miki

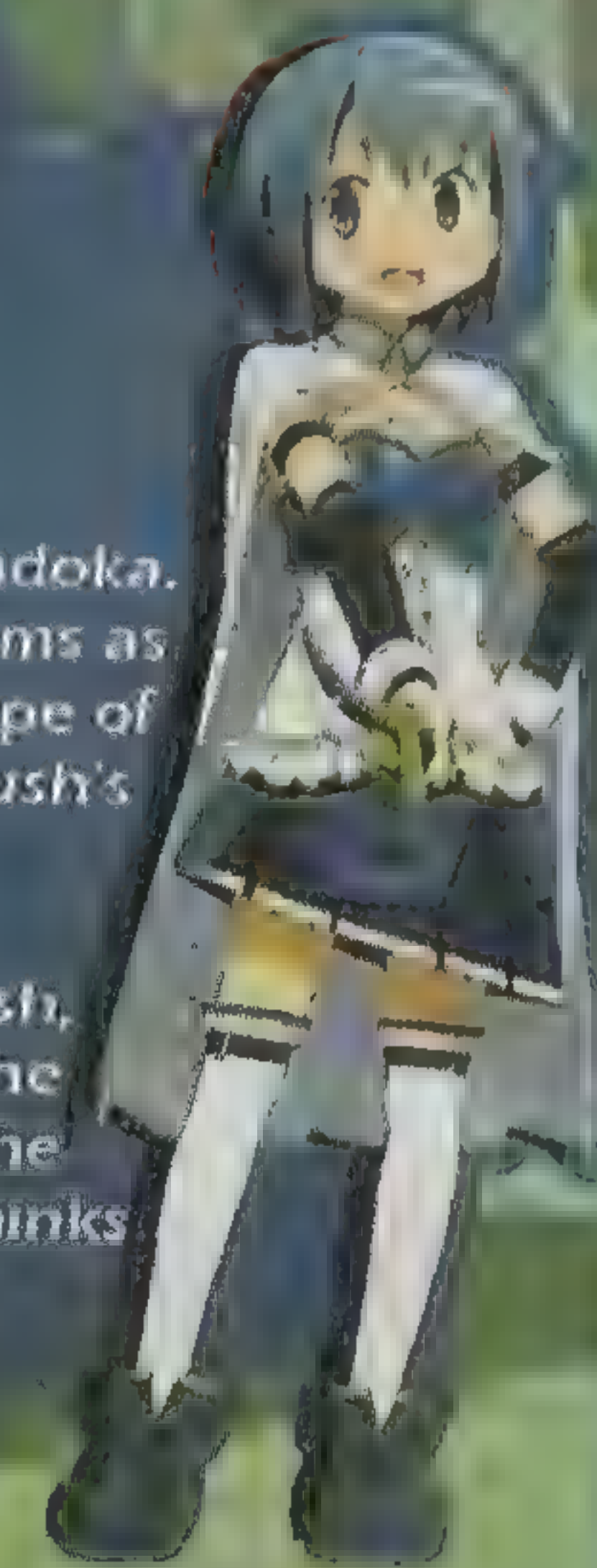
Miracles, magic, they are real-

Seiyuu: Eri Kitamura
Weapon: Cutlass

Special Ability: Enhanced Healing

Always lively and energetic, Sayaka is the outspoken friend and protector of Madoka. Despite her cheerful and carefree attitude, Sayaka had her share of personal problems as well. For one, she has a crush on a classmate who has been hospitalized with no hope of recovery. Despite all her efforts, nothing seemed to be able to relieve her crush's depression.

All changes when Sayaka encounters Kyubey. Using her wish to heal her crush, Sayaka enters the fray as a magical girl of justice. Standing by her firm convictions, she vows to protect her friends and use magic for the benefit of others. She is truly the ideal model for a magical girl that we're all too familiar with: the one who always thinks of others and sacrifices her own desires in order to help her friends.



Mami Tomoe



Seiyuu: Kana Mizushima
Weapon: Mallets
Special Attack: The Finest

Mami is a magical girl who, from within, harbors a dark, deadly, and twisted heart. She is a girl who has lost everything she once loved, and she is now a girl who has lost everything she once loved.

During her time with the magical girls, Mami is a girl who has lost everything she once loved, and she is now a girl who has lost everything she once loved.

Her past is a story of a girl who has lost everything she once loved, and she is now a girl who has lost everything she once loved.

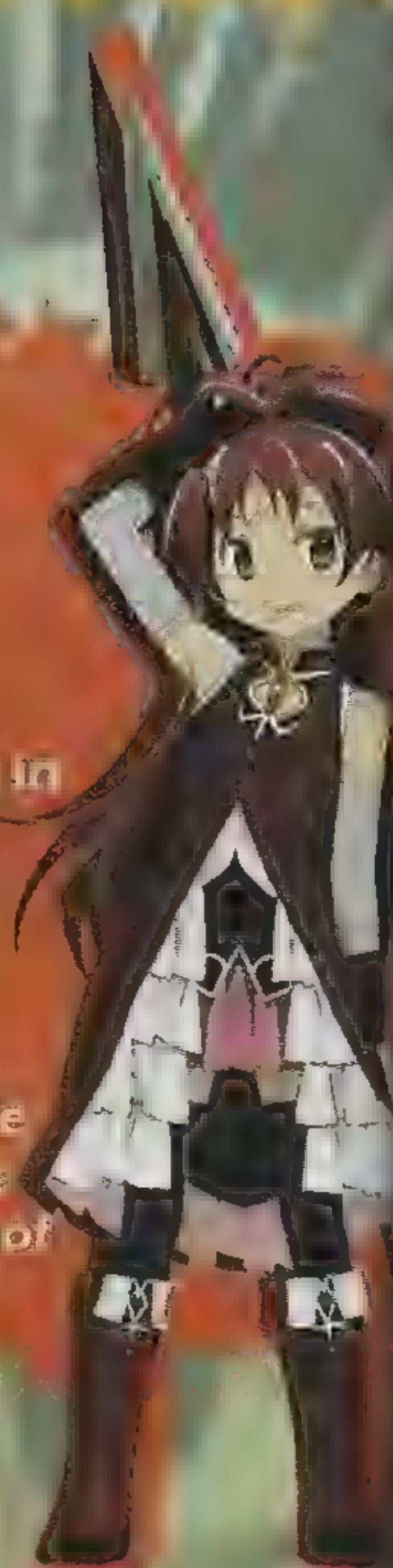
Kyoko Sakura

~I swore to myself that I'd never use magic for others again~

Seiyuu: Ai Nonaka
Weapon: Spear
Special Attack: Rosso Fantasma

Coming from the city of Kasamino, veteran magical girl Kyoko Sakura arrives in Mitakihara with one sole purpose: continue Mami's job and hunt witches for their grief seeds. Unlike most magical girls, Kyoko has no sense of ideals and heroism. This, together with her volatile temperament, causes her to clash head-on with Sayaka, who is just as stubborn as Kyoko towards personal beliefs and values.

During one important conversation with Sayaka, Kyoko reveals her past and the reasons for her selfishness. Afterwards, she starts seeing shades of her old idealistic self in Sayaka. Realizing how similar her situation is to Sayaka's, she develops a feeling of empathy and respect towards Sayaka.



KAZOKU SPOTLIGHT

Homura Akemi

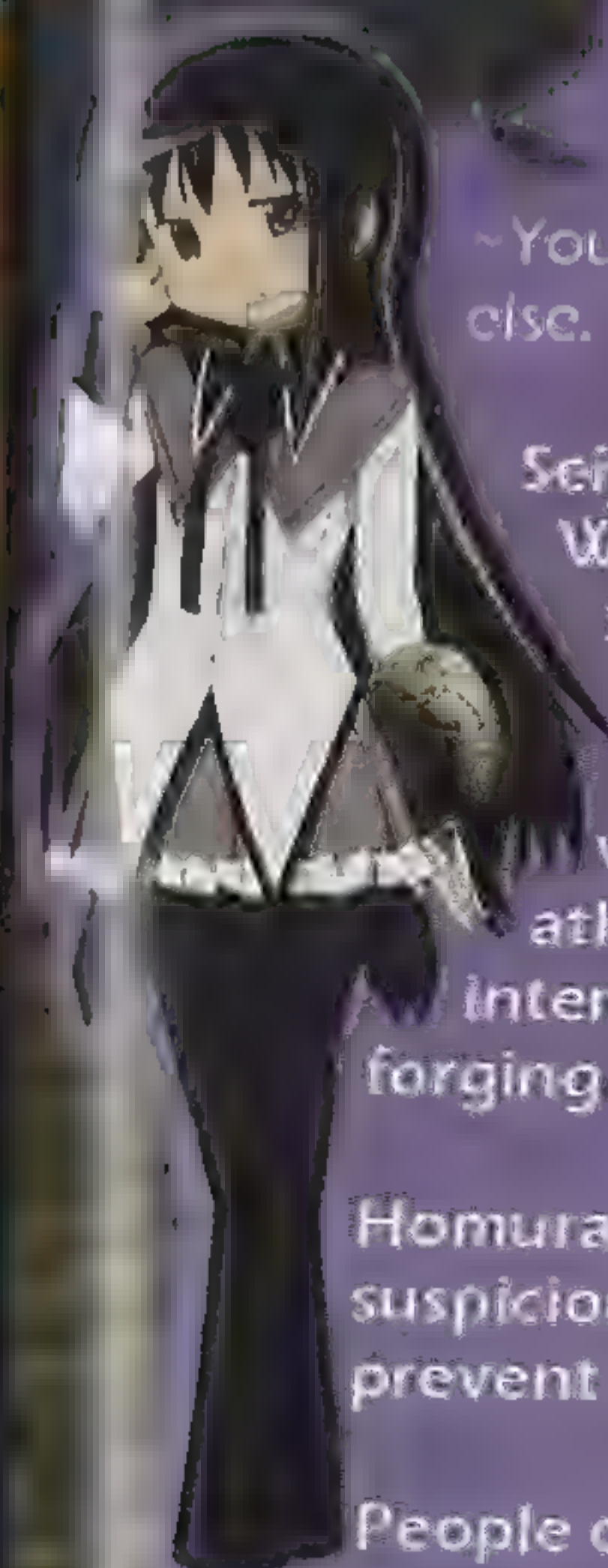
~You mustn't ever think of trying to become someone else. If you do, you'll lose everything~

Seiyuu: Chiwa Saitou
Weapon: Shield, Various Military Weapons
Special Ability: Time Manipulation

Carrying an air of mysterious elegance, Homura is the mysterious transfer student who was the magical girl Madoka saw in her dreams. While being beautiful and athletically talented, the stoic Homura, for some reason, seems to show a specific interest on Madoka. Homura spent the majority of the series trying to prevent her from forging a contract with Kyubey in order to become a magical girl.

Homura is skilled, as she does practically everything with efficiency. Everything she does is suspiciously calculated, as she springs into action and always arrives in the nick of time to prevent something catastrophic from happening.

People could start commenting that "She can't possibly be perfect, can she?" That's when her character development comes into play. At the end of the day, beneath that aloof demeanor lie a story of frustration, sorrow, and suffering. None of that matters to Homura, as she would allow absolutely nothing, may it be witches, Kyubey, and other magical girls, to stop her desperate mission to protect the one she held dear.



Kyubey

~Form a contract with me and become a magical girl~

Seiyuu: Emiri Katou

It has become a staple of magical girl shows to have a magical creature accompany the characters, and Kyubey is no exception. Appearing as a white cat-like creature with the ability to communicate through telepathy, Kyubey shows up towards young girls and grants one wish via contract. The contract would grant their one wish and turn the girls into magical girls with their own personal abilities and attire. Doesn't that sound cool? Coming from a cute creature like that, nothing can go wrong, right?

A contract is not without its costs, as completing the contract would turn the new magical girl into fights against witches that spread pain and despair. While Kyubey may appear cute and friendly, something in that unchanging expression of his seems to cause some suspicion. Could there be more to his contracts that what appears on the surface? Is there more to this cute critter than what meets the eye?



Himitsu no Akko-chan

Manga published by: Shueisha
Written by: Fujio Akatsuka
Studio (Anime): Toei Animation

Some children want to grow up fast when some adults want to go back to their childhood. Why would children want to complicate their lives so soon by becoming adults? And why would adults wish to be kids again, almost as if they never experienced becoming children? It is one irony in life that no one could explain: that we often want something we could never achieve.

Himitsu no Akko-chan is a light-hearted movie about 10-year-old **Akko-chan** who wants to grow up soon because she wants to escape the realities of her monotonous and routinely life. With the help of magic, she was given a chance to become the grown-up she wanted most to become...or probably not!

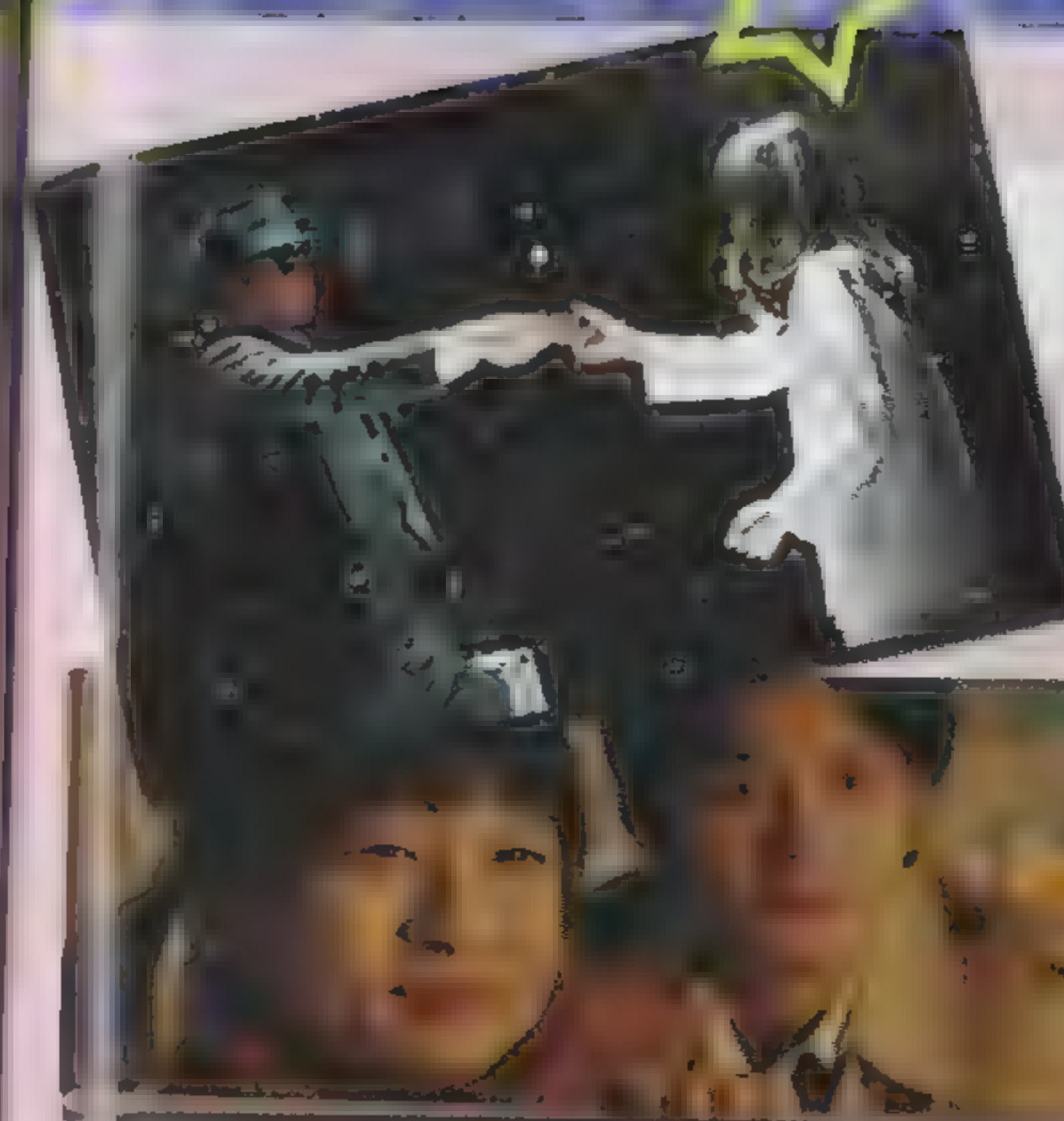
Akko-chan treasures a mirror given to her by her late father. She uses it every time she puts on **Akatsuka make-up brand** which she dishonestly retrieves from her mother. One day in school, she is bullied by some male kids, causing her precious mirror to break. She grieves over it like a pet cat that passed away, to the point of burying it.

Seeing how devoted she was to the mirror, the spirit of mirrors visit her that evening to give her another compact. The mirror she receives was not an ordinary one, for it enables its owners to transform to whomever they like. Akko-chan just has to say the magic words "tekumakumayakon" twice and describe the person she wants to become.

Then presto, she'll become what she wished for! To dispel the charm, she has to say "lamipas lamipas lulu lulu lu", then she'll go back to being the ten-year-old Akko-chan. The mirror seems to have an unlimited database of personalities and unlimited chances to try its magic, but the magic will disappear if she tells someone about it.



She meets **Naoto** one day, the youngest manager of Akatsuka make-up brand and who is in trouble at work. She becomes a part-timer under his supervision and eventually falls in love with him! Akko-chan's secret begins to grow and branch complicatedly, being kept from Naoto, her mom, her best friend and classmates during the winter break.



PLOT 9/10

Himitsu no Akko-chan has been true to the tradition of using magic as an element of escapism. Even though the plot is common to the magical girl anime genre, it has unique points of its own. The way the story is told is consistent when it comes to the language. Since Akko-chan is only ten years old, her knowledge of the Japanese language is very limited. The grown-up Akko-chan uses mostly simplistic words that don't appeal to some adults and seen as extremely childish of the character. However, it adds up to the good points of the movie. Also, the movie teaches a lot of lessons about childhood and maturity, and life in general.

CASTING 10/10

Haruka Ayase was indeed the perfect fit for grown-up Akko-chan. Her acting can be described as "mechanically youthful". Her bubbly personality as the grown-up Akko-chan was indeed embarrassing to watch but necessary for the movie.

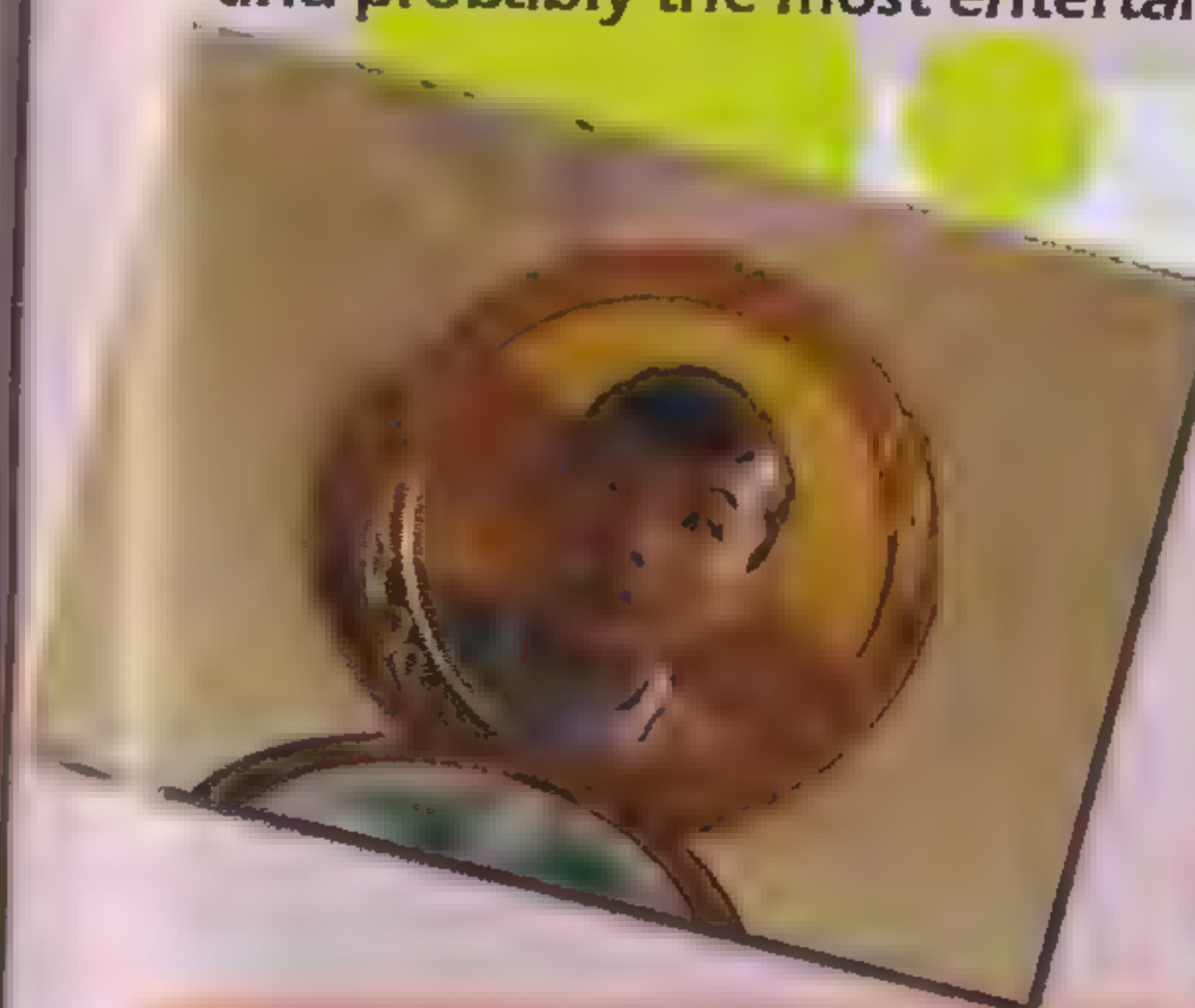
Just imagine a 22-year-old part-timer, hopping and running around happily one morning in the lobby full of worked-up employees. **Riko Yoshida** as the 10-year-old Akko-chan also acted well in the movie. She was trying to be a mature little girl, suppressing her anger most of the time and hating on juveniles, but she hadn't noticed the fact that she herself was being immature. **Masaki Okada** as Naoto portrayed the calm and collected manager very well. The other cast did a great job in acting their respective roles.

Because of Akko-chan's desire to help Naoto save the company, she transformed a lot of times into Naoto's colleagues. The way they acted as children trapped in adults' bodies was hilarious, and probably the most entertaining parts in the movie.



EFFECTS 7/10

Do not expect a lot from the effects, although it's not that terrible either. During times of Akko-chan's numerous transformations in the movie, you would find that the effects were not that smooth and impressive, considering that it is already a film made in 2012. But most likely, children would appreciate it. For the adults though, you could fanboy/fangirl over Haruka Ayase's awesome outfits that suit her nicely after the transformation.



Himitsu no Akko-chan is a recommended movie to people of all ages. The cast consists of children, young adults, and the elderly, whom everyone could relate to. This awesome live action magical film shows that even if you're a child wanting to grow up fast, you'll come running to your mom in times of distress, and if you're already a grown-up, you won't reject a wonderful ride at a theme park!



Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet

Working in a detective agency and solving cases is a challenging job to take. Admit it; at some point in your life, you wanted to become a detective and investigate even the silliest cases. All the more if you are surrounded by three tough and pretty girls, then it will be a more adventurous and fun work to do!

If you're looking for a combination of Chinese-Japanese customs in a magical girl anime, this live action series is probably for you. **Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet**, from the core creators of *Cutie Honey*, is a rich mixture of Chinese influences and the Japanese culture: dragons, Kung-Fu, satin clothes worn by three kawaii moe girls. What more could you ask for? However, there isn't much info about *Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet* anywhere. So here is an overview of what to expect in the series in case you find a reliable medium where to watch it!

PLOT

The **Tsukasagi** teenage sisters namely **Maya**, **Mei**, and **Luna**, work as detectives in their aunt's detective agency. In addition to that, they also help out with their family business, a Chinese restaurant in their neighborhood. They solve a variety of cases, ranging from the least problematic up to the most difficult ones. But they can match up to most of the cases because of their extraordinary powers that enhance human capabilities. As **descendants of the Dragon Clan**, their powers are necessary to battle enemies that continue doing evil deeds to people. Although they face different villains for every episode, it is not clear whether the villains are related to each other. *Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet* is an episodic live action series, meaning that the case is solved once the episode for the day ends.

CHARACTERS

Maya, **Mei**, and **Luna** have different personalities (portrayed by Kubo Yurika, Uchida Ayaka, and Momose Misaki respectively).

Maya is 17 years old and the eldest of the three. She appears to be the toughest among the three also because of her ability to use superhuman strength. **Mei**, 16, is the most energetic, but despite this attitude, she is very careful of her thoughts and actions.

Luna is the youngest, only 15, and the most expressive among the sisters. She is somewhat bratty but nice. She usually doesn't fight physically and may come off as awkward, but she becomes really good at it when she focuses. Also, she has mindreading ability like her eldest sister.

The three girls usually wear skimpy uniforms before transformations but they don't seem to attend school. It's very typical of some magical girls anime genre and other anime as well, showing less interest in school and focusing more on the double life that the characters are leading. It is safe to assume that they love working a lot because of the two jobs they're handling.

Manpuku Shoujo Dragonet is a magical girl live action series created in 2010. It's a comical yet action-packed series that everyone is bound to appreciate.

Cutie Honey: The Live

Androids are a clichéd theme in anime of our generation. But way back in the 1970's, android warriors as a subject in anime is new and refreshing. *Cutie Honey* is the first magical android warrior in the world of anime. Cheers to *Cutie Honey*'s unending legacy! It has been adapted into various anime, movie, and live action versions. The latest adaptation was produced in the year 2007 as a 25-episode live action series. **Mikie Hara**, a well-known gravure idol, portrayed the sexy and awesome **Honey Kisaragi**, a.k.a. *Cutie Honey*. Take a peek at her adventurous journey as a lovable android as she meets new people, androids, cyborgs, and the whatnot!

PLOT: 8/10 (eps 1-3)

Dr. Kisaragi has been devoting his time into developing a system called "**Air Solidifier**". In an attempt to complete the said project, a dreadful accident happens in the laboratory, causing his daughter to die. This makes **Dr. Kisaragi** hyped up to create cyborgs from seemingly hopeless human girls. However, his attempts had been in vain, seeing that the humanoids he created were defective. He then decided to just create a cyborg out of scratch. Thus, the birth of **Honey Kisaragi**, a sexy but extremely ditzy android-disguised as a schoolgirl. She has the ability to transform into **Cutie Honey** by tapping her necklace with a heart shaped pendant and reciting the words "**Honey Flash!**" She battles monsters from **Panther Claw**, her ultimate villains. However, *Cutie Honey* is a peace lover and does not attack innocent people. Despite the adorable sequences and slapstick comedy in *Cutie Honey: The Live*, the story itself marks underlying themes that mostly targets the male audience. It has elements of gore, ecchi, and lesbianism that make the story even more interesting.

Cutie Honey: The Live gave **Mikie Hara** this opportunity to show her acting prowess apart from being a famous gravure idol. True enough, **Mikie Hara** was moving a lot in this series, doing mild stunts and fighting scenes on her own. She also had to express a great deal of emotions here as the series is not only geared towards happy scenes, but also dramatic and violent scenes. However, in order to see this in a new angle, we have to separate our knowledge of the original *Cutie Honey* in the manga, anime, and other live action films from this adaptation. *Cutie Honey: The Live* is so much different from its forerunner, but **Mikie Hara** was able to do justice to her role. **Shouma Yamamoto** as **Selji Hayami** portrayed a great sidekick to Honey, carrying his clumsy attitude and ineptitude as a detective. Other characters like **Sister Miki** (**Ayame Misaki**) the asocial, **Sister Yuki** (**Makoto Takeda**), the overly obsessed lesbian and **Yuji Nakajo** (**Kohei Murakami**), the genius who has multiple personalities, also did well in the series.

EFFECTS: 8/10

The part-by-part demonstration of *Cutie Honey*'s pre-transformation and her highly exposed beauty (if you know what I mean!) sufficed for the lack of high-definition effects. Strictly speaking, children may enjoy the series even with that kind of special effects, but most of the scenes are totally not for the children because of its suggestive content. The adult male audience will love it, though!

The best thing about the show is that it will make you giggle here and there because of the funny gestures of the protagonists and even the enemies, so make sure you watch it for some comic relief after a stressful day in college or at work!

FALL ANIMES 2013

Getting bored on the middle of the class semester? Relax a bit for here are the TOP 10 latest and upcoming animés this fall 2013!

Fate kaleid liner Prisma Illya



Fate fans rejoice! Illyasviel von Einzbern stars as a normal Japanese student who lives with her older brother Shirou Emiya and her two maids. She dreams of having Shirou fall for her but Rin Tohsaka and Luviagelita Edelfelt enters as her rivals. Rin and Luviagelita are sent to Japan to collect Class Cards. Magical Ruby senses something in Illya, tricking her into becoming a magical girl, leaving Rin behind. Now, Rin forces Illya to collect the cards in her place. What more dangerous and funny antics will be let on loose as Illya's own mysteries will be revealed?

Love lab

Riko Kurahashi is a popular girl in Fujisaki Girls Academy for having a boyish personality. In a school where students are known to be proper students, Maki, the student council president is the most admired for her polite and ideal demeanor. However, Riko accidentally discovers Maki practising kissing with a pillow one day. From then, Riko is forced to keep Maki's secret and aided her in practicing romance in all aspects.



Makai Ouji Devils and Realist



William Twining, top of his class at Stratford School for three years straight and is also a fifth-year prefect, is a realist and an orphaned son of a British noble family. After discovering that his uncle who holds the family business had gone bankrupt, he searches for a way to pay for his tuition. He accidentally summons a demon named Dantalion, the Grand Duke of Hell, while he was searching down their basement. William then learns that he is the reincarnation of Solomon and as the 'Elector', he must choose a substitute ruler of Hell as Lucifer rests.

Kamisama no inai nichiyobi

It is believed that God abandoned the world on the 7th day. On that fateful moment, mankind experienced a miracle where no one in the world can either give birth or die. Ai, a little girl who is the village's grave keeper, is given a unique task to help the would-be-dead to finally find peace by burying them. She meets a boy who calls himself Hampnie Hambart also known as the Man-Eating-toy, whom she strongly believes that he is her long lost father. After his sudden appearance in her village, he killed everyone in the town. What is Hampnie's reason behind his actions and what will Ai do to help him?



Unbreakable Machine Doll



In the early 20th century, magic is used together with technology for military use. Automaton or automata are living machine dolls which are powered by magic and are specialized in hand to hand combat. Raishin Akabane, a student puppeteer from Japan, attends the prestigious Walpurgis Royal Academy of Machine Arts located in England to study Machinart. Together with Yaya, his Automaton, the two enter a tournament along with the Top 100 students and their automata, where the winner will be bestowed with the title of the greatest puppeteer, the "Wiseman".

Watamote



Often seen as lonely and disturbed, Tomoko Kuroki aims to be a popular girl. She believes that she can get herself a boyfriend in just a month, having over 50 years of dating experience and a bunch of guys in Otome games, which gave her heavy eye bags due to her staying up to late playing. Despite her being a shut-in, she can be optimistic too. Will she be able to achieve popularity? Or rather, will she be able to even talk with someone from her class?

Free!



Nanase Haruka has a strong love for swimming that he even strips down to his swimsuit at the very sight of water. When he was young, he participated in swimming tournaments together with his friends Makoto, Nagisa and Rin but the four of them parted ways. After they got reunited years later, Haruka was challenged by Rin to a swimming race and he was easily defeated. Now, Haruka decides to gather Makoto, Nagisa and a new recruit Rei to form Iwatobi High School's Swimming club on order to get a chance to compete with Rin in swimming competitions and defeat him.

Brothers conflict

Being in her second year of high school, Ema Hinata finds out that her father is going to get remarried to Miwa Asahina, a successful apparel maker. She then decides to move in to the Sunrise Residence complex, owned by Miwa, taking her talking pet squirrel Juli who often calls her 'Chi' with her. Arriving at the place, she discovers that she will be living together with her 13 stepbrothers and surprisingly, one of them is her own classmate Yusuke. What will happen if one of her step-brothers falls in love with her?



High school Dxd Season 2



The start of a new season, a continuation for high school DxD story where once again our main protagonist with burning passion face new challenges after his last encounter with Riser Phenex. Hyoudou Issei with his growing relationship with the members of the Occult Research Club had an unexpected encounter with his childhood friend and its mysterious partner who are now affiliated with the church. With this development and the revelation of Kiba's past life, will they succeed in overcoming their new enemies? Will he be able to reach his dream of becoming a Harem King? And what would he do, now that his fated rival "Vanishing Dragon" would descend upon the battlefield!?

Danganronpa: The Animation

The beginning of high school is a new chapter for Naegi Makoto's life, his very first step towards adulthood. Entering the renowned "Hope's Peak Private Academy" that brings together the top students in various fields should supposedly bring them a bright future ahead, but with a twisted turn of events his peaceful life starts to change to one of despair. For them to be able to graduate is to kill one of your fellow students without being notice by others.





O-kun tales:

Yani Laughs

Otaku STAFF
ANIME MAGAZINE asia



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ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What magical powers do you want to have?
2. From what Anime?
3. Why?

Name: **Dhanliza Cellona**
 Pen Name: **Lizzi**
 Age: ?? (She's immortal~! Haha!)

1. Flabellum Euri of Konoka Konoe

2. Negima! Magister Negi Magi

3. I want to heal injured people and animals~



Name: **Mikelle Abubo**
 Pen Name: **Crost** Age: 22

1. "Denial of Nothingness" which could make anything from nothing and "Manipulation of Fate"

2. Denial of Nothingness came from the Type-Moon universe while Manipulation of Fate is Remilia Scarlet's ability from the Touhou game franchise.

3. The power to generate anything into existence while manipulating the chains of destiny... what more could I ask for? XD



Name: **Nath Angeles**
 Pen Name: **Reikisha**
 Age: 20

1. Pyrokinesis (Black Fire) and Demonic Transformation

2. Pyrokinesis came from Annie of League of Legends and Demonic Transformation from Dante of Devil May Cry.

3. I want to watch the world burn. Fufufu.

Name: **John Robert Lim**
 Pen Name: **Yuki**
 Age: 19

1. Future Sight coupled with time manipulation

2. Kinda original mix, although I did get the idea from Homura in Madoka Magica

3. I wanna be able to change a lot of things in my past, and see how it affects the future.

With this power, I can make sure that there would be no bad future



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